

Okmulgee Community opens new smoke shop

GAMING - A5



2009 Service Awards

PROGRAMS/NOTICES - A7



MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

FEBRUARY 2009
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From the Nation's Capitol...

- Citizens attend inaugural activities for 44th President



Photo courtesy of Robert Holden

Pictured above is a shot of the U.S. Capitol Building at the inauguration ceremonies, as captured by Deputy Director of the National Museum of the American Indian and member of the Choctaw Nation who attended many of the events throughout the week.

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HAVING AN INAUGURAL BALL

Several Muskegee (Creek) Nation citizens were present for the Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States of America. As the very first minority to ever hold the office, Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in to office on Tues., Jan, 20, 2009.

Many Native Americans watched the historic event from their own homes and offices, on televisions and computers here in Okla. A lucky few, however, got the opportunity to be a part of the crowded excitement as over 2 million people flooded Washington, D.C., to witness history in the making.

Muskegee (Creek) Nation citizen and National Council Rep. Cherrah Quiettt attended the week's events along with MNN Cultural Reporter Ruth Bible. The ladies also met up with a host of other representatives from tribes across the Nation at the American Indian Society's 12th Annual Inaugural Ball.

MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

State of the Nation Address

- Nation recognizes the life and service of George Almirigi

by Angel Ellis
MNN Senior Writer

OKMULGEE — State of the Nation reflected a positive future for MCN, and honored the hard work and lives of those who nurtured the nation along the way. Chief Supreme Court Justice Jonodev Chaudhuri presented an award to Shirley Almirigi during the 2009 State of the Nation Address.

Principal Chief, A.D. Ellis, provided insight to the accomplishments of the last year, as well as prospects for the future. In spite of the depressing state of the United State's economy, the message at the State of the Nation was encouraging for the tribe.

While progress is being hindered for many tribes across the country, the Muskegee (Creek) Nation has been able to trudge on. After recently securing approximately 200 million dollars to fund the new casino in Tulsa, the Muskegee (Creek) Nation continues to grow.

"That is how good of shape this nation is in, not many tribes can do that right now," said Chief Ellis. He credited the unity of the leaders for the many successes.

Ellis spoke about many of the valuable programs and their successes throughout the course of last year. Among those were Reintegration, Transit, Housing, Food Distribution, Trade and Commerce, JOM, Lighthorse, Legal Services, College of the Muskegee Nation, Veterans Program and the Hanna Farms.



MNN/Ruth Bible

Pictured above from left to right are Chief Supreme Court Justice Jonodev Chaudhuri presenting an award to Shirley Almirigi during the 2009 State of the Nation Address. Also pictured are Supreme Court Justice Amos McNac and Speaker Thomas Yahola (seated).

Reintegration received the top honor of Best New Program in America from Harvard. The program was chosen over 250 other tribal programs including some from other countries.

Ellis compared the numbers for the Housing Authority at present to the previous board-managed performance. In the last three years, there were 489 homes built. Comparatively, that amounts to a 700-percent increase while under the management of the current administration.

Much of the Nation is growing and expanding, as Ellis pointed out. The Col-

lege of the Muskegee Nation has funding secured to build its first facility. Major projects are taking place in Wetumka, Transit served 24,650 passengers last year, Legal Services has out-grown its location, and JOM is serving some 16,500 students in 45 different public schools.

Ellis also pointed out some important needs of the Nation. "We need to reach out to all citizens through health care and education," said Ellis. He also expressed his admiration for tribes who have been successful in creating jobs and a desire for the Muskegee (Creek) Nation to do the same.

Jury trial scheduled for Cleghorn conduct case

by Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE—Tulsa District National Council Representative Ronald Cleghorn was present at the Mvskoke Nation District Court on Mon., Jan. 26 for his arraignment hearing for original case no., CRF 2008-46.

Cleghorn is being charged with one count of disorderly conduct after allegedly "engaging in threatening behavior" according to court documents. The original case was filed as a felony, however, it was dismissed by the MCN District Court upon request by the Attorney General's office to be replaced by a criminal misdemeanor charge.

SEE CLEGHORN - A4



"Defendant did with reckless regard for the public order engage in threatening behavior,"
- CRF 2008 - 46
Muskegee (Creek) Nation District Court

Building the 'Pride of Mvskoke Nation' Marching Band

by Lee Longhorn-Bucktro
Pride of Mvskoke Nation Marching Band

NORMAN—Hersce!!! 'Stonko?? Lee Longhorn cvhocefket os. Ecovlke omis. Cvckvlket Alvin mon Patsy Bucktro. Oce Vpovf vm etylvat os. University of Oklahoma mvhakv-cuko ariyet os. Tenor Saxophone hayecis.

My name is Lee Longhorn-Bucktro. My parents are Alvin and Patsy Bucktro. I am a junior at the University of Oklahoma where I study Native American Studies

and Journalism with a minor in Anthropology. I am a three year consecutive member of the "Pride of Oklahoma" Marching Band and this past year served as a section leader for the saxophone section.

This letter is to mark my formal return as the music director for the 2009 "Pride of Mvskoke Nation" Marching Band.

SEE MASCOT - A4

EXECUTIVE A2

Notice: Christina R. Gould



TRIBAL COUNCIL A3

National Council minutes



LEGISLATIVE A4

Pickens slated for 22nd annual Sovereignty Symposium



BUSINESS/GAMING A5

Tulsa Casino update



HEALTH A6

Skin Deep: Bronze Beauty



EDUCATION A8

Revis completes Morris K. Udall Foundation congressional internship



EXECUTIVE

From the Office of the Second Chief

Second Opinion

Submitted Jan. 16, 2009

There are several citizens asking for assistance, citizens needing as much as fourteen-hundred dollars for utility bills. The two-hundred dollars we could provide assistance with is now down to one-hundred dollars. We have requested more money and the answer is no, with no money there is no help. We realize there is a crisis many citizens are being laid off. Citizens need to write the council and ask for more money for assistance.

The accusation of this office in assisting citizens to further career opportunities is not the case. We are not here as politicians we are here to serve our citizens and nothing more.

This is an excerpt from the book "The Road to Disappearance: A History of the Creek Indians" by Angie Debo:

...The delegates earnestly protested against any change in their treaty status, but the board reported that the Indian governments had failed and urged Congress to abolish them. Twelve territorial bills were introduced in Congress during

the session.

Under these circumstances it is not strange that the government officials lost interest in the Okmulgee council. It had become a great unifying influence drawing the tribes together, a clearing house of information regarding agriculture, education, etc., and a school of diplomacy in the contest with the white man. The Civilized Tribes used it as a medium for memorials and protest, in faultless English, against railroad schemes and land grabs; and the bewildered nomads of the plains, fighting for their existence against odds they could not understand, came for sympathy and advice. In 1875 twenty-nine were represented. Even the Kiowas and Comanches had come in by this time. The previous fall the white man's soldiers had converged from all directions upon their prairie fastness, and their fighting spirit was completely crushed. To the Texans they were painted fiends, who deserved only to be exterminated, but their brother Indians listened to their story of the wrongs they had suffered and drew up a memorial in their behalf.

By this time the Indian office

had fallen completely under the control of the land-grabbers. Commissioner Edward P. Smith reported that year that the Okmulgee Council had failed to create a territory, and he advised Congress to place the Indians under a government with a governor and judges appointed by the President and laws enacted by Congress. But the picturesque gatherings in the little capital on the edge of the prairie had attracted wide attention, and a tract was even published in France advising the Indians to adopt a union similar to the Swiss Confederation. This foreign author did not understand that the problem was not to assist the Indians but to restrain them. During the session of 1875-76 thirteen territorial bills were introduced in Congress, but the appropriation for the Council of the Indian Territory was discontinued and it never met again.

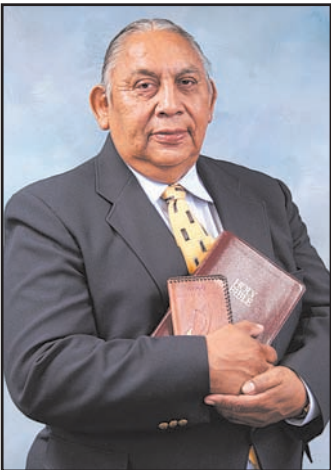
The last year of its existence the Creek delegates urged the council to establish a newspaper to defend the Indian cause, but the other delegates failed to approve and in October the Creek Council took it up as a tribal project. A charter was granted to a corporation to be known as the International Printing Company, composed of the chiefs of the five Tribes. Dr. Myron P. Roberts, a white man from the north who apparently had suggested the plan, was employed as publisher, and William P. Ross

served as editor. The first number was published at Muskogee in May, 1876, under the name of The Indian Journal. For several years it was subsidized by the Creek government.

The need of such a newspaper was apparent. In August, 1775, Elias C. Boudinot, a mixed-blood Cherokee commonly believed to be in the employ of the railroads, inspired a meeting of white agitators at Caddo, in the Choctaw Nation, to adopt a series of "booster" resolutions. Boudinot, George A. Reynolds, and Edgar Poe Harris, a white man who had come to the Cherokee country in a vain attempt to obtain recognition as an intermarried citizen, net hauled a building to Muskogee and attempted to establish a newspaper to be known as The Indian Progress. The prospectus stated that it would be "owned, edited, and printed by Indians," that it would carry columns in the various Indian languages, and that it would adopt as its creed the "Caddo Resolutions." Such an expression of "Indian" opinion was, of course, calculated to convince Congress that the tribes themselves were advocating territorial government.

When the Creek Council convened in October, it demanded the immediate removal of the building from Creek soil.

TO BE CONTINUED



Second Chief Berryhill

Letter to the Editor

Citizen questions Commission

To Angel Ellis, MNN Senior Writer:
As for your report in our Muskogee Nation News volume 39, issue 1, here is another opinion. I felt compelled to write a bit of rebuttal to the 2008 event. I sent in my proposal to amend our creek constitution, which was promptly "trashed" and not read at our convention. Therefore, myself being governed by the laws of our nation's constitutional laws, now understand what other law making process are in place there. We folks that are governed by our constitution do in fact have duties to respond, in a country rooted in democ-

racy.

There is a few instances where the average citizen cannot play any significant role in reshaping the laws of our nation (MCN). Do you believe that the integrity of the convention was upheld? Was a stringent protocol followed in the law concerning the "acknowledged" proposals sent in by registered voters of our nation?

I followed my individual responsibility as a citizen and did in fact send in my proposals. My proposal was listed as #29 in the records. The commission that was formed failed miserably. I have factual

proof of this. I would be appalled at what an unproficient and unorganized group would be like, if this one was proper.

The Supreme court probably is not aware of the atrocity that was permitted there. The laws that were not examined, were the very laws that urge and permit citizens to participate! Even after the failure of protocol and citizenship records being called into the question, and notifying Chief A.D. Ellis, District Court's, Judge Patrick Moore, the Citizenship Board and finally Mr. Yahola, Speaker of the National Council, no proper investigation was conducted! This speaks loudly of the pro-

cess within our government! Of all the proposal received by the convention, my proposal # 29 (two parts) was the only one excluded by this bogus designation "not a citizen." If you care to investigate, let me know, I will assist you.

I apologize that this is directed toward you. I'm pretty sure that you didn't know anything about this incident. So please forgive the harshness of this. Let me know when you receive this. It will facilitate my report that is due others that are of interest.

Gordon L. Jones
CR. # 49089

Legal Notices

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP
OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE OF
K. M. G.,

A Minor Child.

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muskogee (Creek) Nation To: CHRISTINA RENAE GOULD

TAKE NOTICE that an action for guardianship of K.M.G., a minor child, has been filed in the District Court of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. GD-2008-23, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of K.M.G., a minor child. The action alleges that the Petitioner is seeking a guardianship of the minor child.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner thirty (30) days from the date of publication or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of the Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*. This matter is set for hearing before the Court on the 17 day of March, 2009.

Given under my hand and seal this 13 day of Jan, 2009.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk
Muskogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: [Signature]
(Deputy)

Approved: [Signature]
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Laura N. Mathis, MCN#536
Kacie R. Cresswell, MCN#568
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, N. Lobby
918-756-1112 Telephone
918-756-1113 Facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of BOUTTE:
ATHENA JUNE COFER-BOUTTE,

Petitioner,

vs.

JOHN TROY BOUTTE,

Respondent.

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

Muskogee (Creek) Nation To: John Troy Boutte

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2008-96, styled In re the Marriage of Athena June Cofer-Boutte, Petitioner and John Troy Boutte, Respondent. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to a *Decree of Dissolution of Marriage* from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner thirty (30) days from the date of publication or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of the Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*. This matter is set for a final decree before the Court on the 17 day of February, 2009.

Given under my hand and seal this 13 day of Jan, 2009.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk
Muskogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

By: [Signature]
(Deputy)

Approved: [Signature]
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165
Laura N. Mathis, MCN#536
Kacie R. Cresswell, MCN#568
MCN Citizen Legal Services
114 N. Grand Ave, N. Lobby
918-756-1112 Telephone
918-756-1113 Facsimile
Attorneys for Petitioner

OKMULGEE — THE FOLLOWING CONSISTS OF ACTIONS OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIONAL COUNCIL CONDUCTED AT THE DECEMBER 18, SPECIAL SESSION.

DECEMBER 18, SPECIAL SESSION

REPRESENTATIVES LENA WIND, BILL FIFE AND SHIRLENE ADE WERE EXCUSED.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- TABLED (19-3-0) TR 08-128, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO ACCEPT ASSIGNMENTS OF THREE (3) REAL ESTATE CONTRACTS FROM LEADERSHIP PROPERTY, LLC

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: DAVID NICHOLS, KEEPER JOHNSON AND JAMES JENNINGS.

- KILLED (22-0-0) NCA 08-202, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY IN TULSA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

DECEMBER 20, REGULAR SESSION

REPRESENTATIVES EXCUSED WERE: DAVID HILL AND CARMIN TECUMSEH-WILLIAMS. REPRESENTATIVE PETE BEAVER WAS EXCUSED AT HIS DISCRETION.

VETO MESSAGE:

- MOTION TO OVER-RIDE FAILED RECORDED AS VETO (13-11-0) TR 08-123, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CONFIRMING THE RE-NOMINATION OF ALEF “NANCY” GRAHAM TO SERVE ON THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION HEALTH SYSTEMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETURNED BY THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF AS A VETO WITH OBJECTIONS

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: DARRELL PROCTOR, ADAM JONES III, PETE BEAVER, DAVID NICHOLS, KEEPER JOHNSON, TERRIE ANDERSON, JAMES JENNINGS, THOMAS YAHOLA, STEVE BRUNER, PAULA WILLITS AND JOHNNIE GREENE.

- MOTION TO OVER-RIDE DID NOT RECEIVE 2/3 VOTE RECORDED AS VETO (14-10-0) TR 08-124, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CONFIRMING THE RE-NOMINATION OF DR. HOWARD CONDREN TO SERVE ON THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION HEALTH SYSTEMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETURNED BY THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF AS A VETO WITH OBJECTIONS

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: DARRELL PROCTOR, ADAM JONES III, PETE BEAVER, DAVID NICHOLS, KEEPER JOHNSON, TERRIE ANDERSON, JAMES JENNINGS, THOMAS YAHOLA, PAULA WILLITS AND JOHNNIE GREENE.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (23-0-0) NCR 08-004, A RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIONAL COUNCIL HONORING FORMER SPEAKER WILBUR (CHEBON) GOUGE FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FOR HIS SERVICE, DEDICATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION SPONSOR: KARA MEDINA; CO-SPONSOR(S): T. YAHOLA; R. CLEGHORN

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (14-9-0) TR 08-110, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF JUDY AARON AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION HEALTH SYSTEM SPONSOR: CERRAH QUIETT

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: DARRELL PROCTOR, ADAM JONES III, PETE BEAVER, DAVID NICHOLS, KEEPER JOHNSON, TERRIE ANDERSON, JAMES JENNINGS, PAULA WILLITS AND JOHNNIE GREENE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (23-0-0) TR 08-130, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE GAMING OPERATIONS AUTHORITY BOARD TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH BOTTLING GROUP, LLC FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS SPONSOR: STEVE BRUNER; CO-SPONSOR: SAM ALEXANDER



- APPROVED TO ADOPT (23-0-0) TR 08-132, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN OKMULGEE, COUNTY, OKLAHOMA SPONSOR: JAMES JENNINGS; CO-SPONSOR(S): P. BEAVER; B. FIFE; D. HILL; C. QUIETT; C. TECUMSEH-WILLIAMS; P. WILLITS; T. ANDERSON

- RETURN TO COMMITTEE (23-0-0) NCA 08-191, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING LOCATED AT THE OMNIPLEX SPONSOR: DAVID NICHOLS; CO-SPONSOR: SELINA JAYNE-DORNAN (\$1,295,407.00)

REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS SCOTT WAS EXCUSED. THEREFORE, 23 PRESENT AND 3 ABSENT.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (17-5-0) NCA 08-03, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET SUPPLEMENTAL FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION SPONSOR: PETE BEAVER; CO-SPONSOR: PAULA WILLITS (\$318,998.00)

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: DARRELL PROCTOR, ADAM JONES III, BILL FIFE, RON CLEGHORN AND SAM ALEXANDER.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (20-2-0) NCA 08-204, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE OKMULGEE COUNTY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT AS A CORPORATE SPONSOR SPONSOR: JAMES JENNINGS; CO-SPONSOR(S): K. JOHNSON; T. SCOTT; J. BEAVER (\$7,500.00)

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: TERRIE ANDERSON AND RON CLEGHORN.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (19-3-0) NCA 08-205, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE NEW TULSA CASINO PROJECT FUNDS TO FUND GAMING MACHINE TECHNOLOGY NEEDS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PERMANENT FINANCING CAN BE OBTAINED SPONSOR: STEVE BRUNER (\$2,700,000.00)

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: LARRY CAHWEE, BILL FIFE AND KARA MEDINA.

- APPROVED (22-0-0) NCA 08-206, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING NCA 08-095 (A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE GSA/FACILITIES DEPARTMENT) SPONSOR: DAVID NICHOLS

- TABLED (14-8-0) NCA 08-207, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE KELLYVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING SPONSOR: ROGER BARNETT (\$1,354,751.00)

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: LARRY CAHWEE, ROGER BARNETT, LENA WIND, BILL FIFE, CERRAH QUIETT, SAM ALEXANDER, ROBERT HUFFT AND JOHNNIE GREENE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (21-1-0) NCA 08-208, A LAW OF THE MUSCO-

GEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION TO THE GYPSY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT SPONSOR: ROGER BARNETT; CO-SPONSOR(S): D. HILL; L. CAHWEE (\$6,500.00)

VOTING NO WAS REPRESENTATIVE TERRIE ANDERSON.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (22-0-0) NCA 08-209, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE CLAUDE COX OMNIPLEX SOFTBALL FIELDS AND CONCESSION STAND SPONSOR: PETE BEAVER (\$971,500.00)

- APPROVED AS AMENDED (22-0-0) NCA 08-211, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO BE USED TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN OKMULGEE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA SPONSOR: JAMES JENNINGS; CO-SPONSOR(S): P. BEAVER; B. FIFE; D. HILL; C. QUIETT; C. TECUMSEH-WILLIAMS; P. WILLITS; T. ANDERSON (\$225,000.00)

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (16-6-0) NCA 08-212, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNPAID FUNERAL EXPENSES OF A MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN SPONSOR: TRAVIS SCOTT (\$2,200.00)

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: DARRELL PROCTOR, ADAM JONES III, SELINA JAYNE-DORNAN, TERRIE ANDERSON, JAMES JENNINGS AND KARA MEDINA.

DECEMBER 22, EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

REPRESENTATIVES THAT WERE EXCUSED: KARA MEDINA AND LENA WIND. REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT HUFFT WAS EXCUSED AT HIS DISCRETION.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- APPROVED AS AMENDED TO ADOPT (21-1-0) TR 08-133, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROVING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO EXECUTE AN UNDERGROUND RIGHT-OF-WAY

EASEMENT FOR 99 YEAR TERM AND CONVEY SAID EASEMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF OKLAHOMA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING ELECTRICITY TO THE SITE OF THE RIVER SPIRIT CASINO SPONSOR: STEVE BRUNER


VOTING NO WAS REPRESENTATIVE BILL FIFE.

REPRESENTATIVE CARMIN TECUMSEH-WILLIAMS ARRIVED. THEREFORE, 24 PRESENT AND 2

ABSENT.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (19-4-0) TR 08-134, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION RATIFYING A COMMITMENT LETTER AND FEE LETTER BETWEEN THE NATION AND BANK OF AMERICA SECURITIES, LLC, BANK OF AMERICA, NA AND WELLS FARGO BANK, NA AND ACCEPTING THE LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY CONTAINED THEREIN SPONSOR: STEVE BRUNER

National Council Sessions 2009		
This is the 2009 Calendar for the Quarterly and Regular Sessions of the National Council in accordance with NCR 93-24A and NCA 93-114 (amended by NCA 95-71). These dates are only subject to change by majority vote of the full Council. In those situations, prior notices will be publicized and posted.		
PLANNING SESSIONS will commence at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, four days prior to the Regular/Quarterly National Council Session. REGULAR SESSIONS will commence Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium - Mound Building - Capitol Complex. Pre-Agenda commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the same designated place. REGULAR/QUARTERLY SESSIONS will commence in the Auditorium - Mound Building - Capitol Complex.		
JANUARY 2009	Planning Session	January 27
	Quarterly Session	January 31
FEBRUARY 2009	Planning Session	February 24
	Regular Session	February 28
MARCH 2009	Planning Session	March 24
	Regular Session	March 28
APRIL 2009	Planning Session	April 21
	Quarterly Session	April 25
MAY 2009	Planning Session	May 12
	Regular Session	May 16
JUNE 2009	Planning Session	June 23
	Regular Session	June 27
JULY 2009	Planning Session	July 21
	Quarterly Session	July 25
AUGUST 2009	Planning Session	August 25
	Regular Session	August 29
SEPTEMBER 2009	Planning Session	September 22
	Regular Session	September 26
OCTOBER 2009	Planning Session	October 27
	Quarterly Session	October 31
NOVEMBER 2009	Planning Session	November 17
	Regular Session	November 21
DECEMBER 2009	Planning Session	December 15
	Regular Session	December 19



Cynthia Fox

McGraw Davisson Stewart

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LEGISLATIVE

Pickens slated for 22nd annual Sovereignty Symposium

Media Release
Oklahoma State Courts Network

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Sovereignty Symposium 2009 will be held June 3 and 4, 2009 At the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City.

The 22nd annual Sovereignty Symposium will feature keynote speaker T. Boone Pickens, Founder and chairman BP Capital Management.

(As of 1/26/09): Several key elements of the Pickens Plan are playing an important role in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (which we all know as the Stimulus Bill). These elements contribute to President Obama's

goals to create new jobs, advance clean energy and lessen our dependence upon foreign oil.

Key elements found in the House version of the Stimulus include:

- \$32 billion to transform the nation's energy transmission, distribution, and production systems by allowing for a smarter and better grid and focusing investment in renewable technology.
- \$16 billion to repair public housing and make key energy efficiency retrofits.
- \$6 billion to weatherize modest-income homes.
- Tax incentives for the instillation of natural gas vehicle home fueling systems and the building of an alternative fuels fueling infrastructure.
- On the wind side of the Plan, there's an \$80 Billion loan guarantee program for renewables, a three year extension of the Production Tax Credit (PTC) and an elective 30%

Investment Tax Credit (ITC) alternative (House and Senate versions); the ITC for manufacturers in the renewable energy supply chain (Senate only); and lifting of caps on small wind benefits (House and Senate versions). Additionally there are provisions allowing renewable generators to elect a 30% ITC and then to receive a cash grant from the Department of Energy for the value of the ITC (House only).

T. Boone Pickens' vision and proactive energy Plan have played a significant role in the Stimulus Bill—this important piece of legislation is just the beginning of what will be a successful effort to enact the Pickens Plan.

Looking ahead, Pickens will be addressing other elements of the Plan in upcoming major legislation on energy and transportation.

Three scholarships for the event are also available including the Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing competition, The Ed Edmondson Scholarship and the Susan J. Ferrel Scholarship.

Chief Justice John B. Doolin Writing Competition are now being accepted.

The Supreme Court of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, the Sovereignty Symposium, Inc., and the Oklahoma Arts Council are sponsoring a law student writing competition, open to all students enrolled in an accredited law school in the United States, its territories or Canada.

In conjunction with Sovereignty Symposium XXII, a scholarly collection of legal and historical writings will be

presented to all participants. Legal libraries all over the United States regularly solicit copies of the publications for their collections.

The subject matter of the paper may be on any area of the law relating to Native Americans or other indigenous peoples. First, second, and third prizes in the amounts of \$500.00; \$300.00; and \$200.00 will be awarded. The winning entry will also be published in the 2008 Symposium compendium of materials. Second and third place entries will be published if space permits. Entries must be received no later than March 30, 2009. Publication releases will be required prior to payment of prize money.

For more information, contact kyle.shifflett@oscn.net. Papers must be submitted to: The Sovereignty Symposium, Oklahoma State Capitol, Room 208, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 or e-mailed to: kyle.shifflett@oscn.net.

For the Edmondson Scholarship, applicants should demonstrate an interest in and dedication to Native American law issues and the need for a scholarship in a letter of application. The closing date for this scholarship will be May 5, 2009.

Applicants should demonstrate an interest in and contribution to Native American legal issues by an application letter. There is no application form. Please include name, address, and day and evening telephone numbers in your letter. Applicants must be students at an accredited law school in the United States, its territories, or Canada.

For more information, contact Julie Rorie at (405) 522—5801, or e-mail roriej@oscn.net.

Cleghorn

Continued from A1

Ronald Cleghorn's attorney was in court for another case scheduled for 9 a.m., at the time of the hearing and was asked by Judge Patrick Moore to file an interim of appearance. "The court doesn't know who your lawyer is," said Moore.

The Attorney General's office then handed a copy of the charges to Rep. Cleghorn without reading them, upon the verification that he knew what the documents indicated. The arraignment for the CRM case will be Mon., Feb. 23 at 10 a.m., with a jury trial to follow in April.

"Your lawyer needs to contact the Attorney General's Office to see if there's any discovery that needs to be maintained. We're going to set this on our jury term for April 27," Moore said.

The Attorney General's office also recommended there be no bond with the understanding that Cleghorn did appear at the request of the court on



MNN/Angel Ellis
Pictured above is Rep. Ronald Cleghorn at his initial appearance in the MCN District Court on Mon., Jan 26.

the assigned date and time.

"The Attorney General's Office and the Court agrees to put you on your own reconnaissance," Moore stated.

Pride

Continued from A1

Under my leadership the band will perform in the 2009 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Parade and Festival. Other activities and performances will be determined as they become available. Musical selections included for this years' band may include "Highlights from West Side Story," "Pop, Rock and Roll" "Movies of the 80s," "The Incredibles," "Latin Fire!!" "Veterans Salute," "Dance (Featuring music from each of the decades of the 20th Century)," "Disney Heroes and Villains," and "At the Tony's!! (Selections from Broadway).

I look forward to working with the musical students and parents of the band. I'm proud of all the Mvskoke students who are enrolled in a music ensemble and continue to study music.

I look forward to the music that the band produces and the experience they get to share with one another. Criteria to be in the band includes being a tribal member, Muscogee (Creek) or other, one year in a musical ensemble, and must provide own instrument. Not only through their common bond of musicianship but as Native youth. If you would like to contact me please e-mail me at Lee.A.Longhorn-1@ou.edu and it will allow me give you any more information about the band. Information about joining the band can be received through Melinda Deeringwater in the Creek Nation Housing Department. Myto and look forward to hearing from all the young Mvskoke and non-Mvskoke musicians.

- Lee A. Longhorn
Alto/Tenor Saxophone

918.683.1825 Open 24 hours 3420 W. Peak Boulevard Muskogee, OK 74401 www.muscogee-casino.com



FREE HEALTH SCREENING & MEET PAUL THOMPSON FEBRUARY 23rd 10 AM

Free health screening for ages 21 and above, located in the Bingo hall. Paul Thompson, a former University of Oklahoma football quarterback will be present for a meet and greet autograph session during the health screening.

VALENTINES DAY

Feb. 14th

Diamond Club Valentines

Noon - 10:00 PM

\$10 Match Play for Diamond Card Members.

Sweetheart Hot Seat

Drawings

Noon - 4:00 PM

We will draw names every 1/2 hour from Noon - 4:00 PM. Each hot seat winner and their sweetheart will each receive \$50 in free play.

Sweetheart Electronic Games

Tournament

4:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Each hot seat winner and their sweetheart will play in the tournament. The top 3 players during each round will win a prize. Prizes range from \$25 to \$1,000.

Bingos Valentines Day

Mini Games pay DOUBLE!

VIPickem, Super Jackpot, and

Bonanza pay \$500. \$15 pay \$750.

MARDI GRAS

Feb. 24th

Mardi Gras Hot Seat Drawings

Noon - 4:00 PM

5 - \$100 Diamond Club Hot Seat drawings every 30 minutes.

Mardi Gras

Electronic Games Tournament

4:30 - 9:00 PM

We will draw hot seat winners to play in the tournament. The top 3 players during each round will win a prize. Prizes range from \$50 to \$1,000.



Are you the next big deal?

CREEK NATION CASINO MUSCOGEE

TALENT Search

\$10,000 IN CASH PRIZES

Qualifying rounds on March 5, 12, 19, 26
Final round on April 2



CHARTERED COMMUNITY NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Compensation for community officials notice

The following is a statement received by the Community Research and Development Department on January 20, 2009 concerning Communities that pay their elected officials stipends.

This office is in receipt of your Jan. 12, 2009 legal request in which you ask if the payment of stipends to Chartered Indian Community (“Community”) elected officials should be stipulated in the Community Constitution and By-Laws (“Constitution”). It is our position that stipend amounts in a Community Constitution are not necessary. However, in order for a Community to compensate its elected officials the following items must be in place:

1. The Community Constitution must state that its elected officials will be compensated. (If there is no mention in the Community Constitution about elected officials compensation, then the Community Constitution must be amended to allow for said activity. Payment of elected officials stipends without Community Constitution approval is a violation of the Community Constitution.)
2. The Community Constitution must state that its elected officials will be compensated in accordance with a Compensation and Reimbursement Policy (“Policy”).

(The Constitution should state that the Policy must be approved by a majority of the Community at a regular monthly Community meeting. In addition, the Community Constitution must state that the elected officials “compensation may not be increased during their term of office. Any change in compensation will take effect for the next Board.”).

A stipend amount is generally not the type of information that is detailed in a Constitution. It is usual practice to mention that compensation will be made and that it will be paid in accordance with a law or policy.

Partnership Board looking for volunteers

OKMULGEE — The MCN Community Partnership Board is planning to host the 7th Annual Spring Celebration on March 20th, 2009 here at the complex. This is a one-day event to bring youth and families together for fellowship and to provide an opportunity for all to learn of the services available through the tribe. This event has about 600 visitors each year.

This year the MCN Community Partnership Board is in need of volunteers. There will be different activities for all age groups: from games, to inflatables to basketball tournaments. If you would be interested in helping out with this fun-filled activity you can contact Janice Hanun or Neenah Emarthle @ (918) 732-7968.

Mvskoke Food Sovereignty hosts symposium

The MFSI will be hosting an educational event, the first annual “Return to Your Roots Food Sovereignty Symposium.” The symposium is scheduled for March 20th and 21st, 2009, at the Capital Complex Mound Bldg. The participants will be exposed to our modern Muscogee Culture as the expert presenters enlighten us with their knowledge.

An impressive group of experts in many aspects of the food system including the health benefits of traditional foods, Muscogee agriculture heritage, growing and cooking traditional foods and resources available from farmers in our area. Also scheduled are presentations from other tribes and several Muscogee Communities about their agriculture projects. A traditional meal prepared by Muscogee citizens will be provided on Sat. For more information contact Ben Yahola or Vicky Karhu at (918) 756-5915 by e-mail: at info@mvskefood.org., or visit www.mvskefood.org.

Valentine's Day dance

Okemah Indian Community Youth Group will be hosting a Valentines Dance on Sat., Feb. 14th at Okemah (Oakes School) from 7 p.m., to 9 p.m. Ages 12 to 18 are invited, admission is \$2.00. Activities will include: King and Queen Contest; Dance Contest - The Cupid Shuffle, Door Prizes, Concession, Pictures.

U.S. Census Bureau recruiting census takers for Native communities

Media Release
MCN Community Research and Development

OKMULGEE — The U.S. Census Bureau will be testing for employment at Okemah and Okmulgee Indian Communities throughout the month of Jan.

Testing for Okemah will be held Tues., Jan. 13 at 9 a.m., and again at 1 p.m. The Okmulgee Indian Community will hold the training on Wed., Jan. 7 at 1 p.m.

Census employees may earn competitive weekly pay, training, a flexible work schedule and reim-

bursement for authorized mileage and travel-related expenses.

Applicants should bring a form of identification such as a driver's license, school I.D., voter registration card, passport, social security card or Native American enrollment card to the testing site. Other communities involved are Holdenville, Tulsa and Eufaula.

Areas of skill to be tested include clerical abilities, reading comprehension, number skills, interpre-

tation of information and evaluation of alternatives along with organizational skills.

Help your community have a successful 2010 Census. For more information, please call 1-866-861-2010 or visit the Web site at www.census.gov/kansascity. Informational brochures are also available in the Community Research and Development office on the main campus of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Social Services offers winter energy assistance

by Julie Ziriaux
MCN Social Services Manager

OKMULGEE —The Social Services Department continues to offer the Tribal Energy program for heating assistance. We will continue to take applications through March 31, 2009, or until the funds are exhausted.

Tribal Energy is available for elders (55 and older) or those receiving disability benefits through the Social Security Administration.

To apply for services, please choose one of the following options:

Applicants may choose to apply:

- 1) IN PERSON - No appointment is necessary and clients will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis. Office hours are 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. We are now located at 2971 N. Wood Drive, just north of Housing.
- 2) BY MAIL – Please mail all documents to: MCN Social Services, Attn: LIHEAP or Tribal Energy, PO

Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

3) BY FAX – Please fax all documents to 918-759-9988 and include a cover sheet addressed to LIHEAP or Tribal Energy.

4) IN YOUR COMMUNITY – Please bring all your documents to the field site. A Social Services Caseworker is available every month in chartered communities between 9:30 and 11a.m., on specified days (see field schedule below for specific days).

Those who wish to apply should provide:

- 1) Tribal cards and Social Security cards for everyone in the household
- 2) Gas bill OR Propane vendor OR Wood vendor (Electric bill only if you are total electric. You may be asked to verify this.)
- 3) Copies of all income sources
- 4) Phone number (in case we

need to contact you)

5) Authorization for Social Services to sign the application (if mailing or faxing)

6) Non-Duplication statement: Statement detailing any assistance received in the past 12 months from any federal, state, tribe, community, and/or church agency or the like with utilities, and/or deposits.

7) Additional documentation may be required

Applicants should keep paying their bill until they receive an approval letter. Please allow at least 45 days for processing.

We are currently out of LIHEAP funds but will resume applications in the summer for electric. Please contact Social Services at 918-759-2334 if you need additional information. The toll-free number is 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7995.

2009 MCN Service Awards



Photo courtesy of Thompson Gauge

Pictured left to right is Principal Chief AD Ellis along with Louise Tecumseh and Thomas Mitchell who received blankets for their 30 years of service with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.



Photo courtesy of Thompson Gauge

Pictured left to right is Principal Chief AD Ellis along with Joyce Vaughn, Linday Rayon, Rosie Berryhill, Tracey Lowe, Jerri On-The-Hill, Barbara Dunn and Deborah McGirt who have reached the 25 years plus mark with the Nation.



Photo courtesy of Thompson Gauge

Pictured left to right is Principal Chief AD Ellis along with Grace Slinker, Russell Watashe, David McGirt and Perry Anderson who have been working for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for 20 plus years.



Photo courtesy of Thompson Gauge

Pictured left to right is Principal Chief AD Ellis along with Newman Frank, Mona Lowe, Janice Bigpond, Pat Johnson, Robert VanStraten, Stacy Settlemyre and Dell Proctor (not pictured are Ben Watashe and Tim Thompson) who have served the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for 15 plus years.

Planting and Growing Traditional Corn

Including history of Southeastern Food.

A FREE Class - Open to the public.
Saturday, Feb. 7th
2:00 - 4:00
208 W. 6th Street
Okmulgee, OK

Come and enjoy listening to the history of the traditional corn of the Southeastern Tribes of the United States. Learn how to plant, grow and prepare the corn from two experts: Kent Sanmann, (Kiowa) and Steven Bonds, (Chickasaw) Ethnobotanist for the Chickasaw Nation and a southeastern foods history expert. This class is sponsored by MFSI (Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative).

Time: 2:00 - 4:00
Location: 208 W. 6th Street (Across from Kirby's)
Okmulgee, OK 74447
For more info. call 918-756-5915

MCN Social Services and Food Distribution Field Schedule			
Coweta	Community Center	2nd Tuesday of the Month	9:30 - 11 a.m.
Glenpool	Community Center	2nd Wednesday of the Month	9:30 - 11 a.m.
Bristow	Community Center	2nd Thursday of the Month	9:30 - 11 a.m.
Eufaula	Community Center	3rd Tuesday of the Month	9:30 - 11 a.m.
Sapulpa	Community Center	3rd Wednesday of the Month	9:30 - 11 a.m.
Checotah	Community Center	3rd Thursday of the Month	9:30 - 11 a.m.
Weleetka	Community Center	4th Tuesday of the Month	9:30 - 11 a.m.
Okemah	Community Center	4th Wednesday of the Month	9:30 - 11 a.m.
Holdenville	Community Center	4th Thursday of the Month	9:30 - 11 a.m.

EDUCATION

Native scholarship opportunities

LaGrant Foundation Scholarship

THE LAGRANT FOUNDATION (TLF) is now accepting applications for \$100,000 in scholarships for the 2009/2010 academic year. Applications must be submitted to TLF by Fri., Feb. 27, for consideration.

Ethnic minority undergraduate and graduate students majoring in advertising, marketing or public relations are eligible for the TLF scholarships. In an effort to increase ethnic minority representation in the communications industry, TLF awards \$5,000 scholarships to undergraduate students and \$10,000 scholarships to graduate students.

TLF was established in 1998 by Mr. Kim L. Hunter, whose vision is to see more ethnic representation within the fields of advertising, marketing and public relations. By targeting college students, TLF paves the path toward a successful career right from the start.

“It is important to help ethnic minority students achieve their education goals and help guide them toward their future careers,” said Founder/Chairman of TLF, Mr. Kim L. Hunter. “By doing this, TLF is helping to create diversity within the advertising, marketing and public relations industries and reflect the society we live in.”

TLF scholarship requirements are as follows: students must be of African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino or Native American descent; must have a 2.75 GPA if undergraduate or 3.2 GPA if graduate; must be seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree at an accredited college or university; must be enrolled in one of the three programs mentioned above; and must make a commitment to maintain contact with TLF for assistance with professional development.

Since its inception in 1998, THE LAGRANT FOUNDATION has awarded a total of \$770,000 to 136 students nationwide. In 2009, TLF will celebrate its 11th Anniversary Scholarship Recognition Reception and Awards Program in New York City. The scholarship recipients will participate in a day-long career development workshop and have the opportunity to meet with industry professionals.

Thanks to its committed board of directors and donors, TLF continues to strive toward achieving its mission of increasing ethnic minorities in advertising, marketing and public relations.

Scholarship applications may be obtained through TLF’s website at www.lagrانتfoundation.org, or by calling Programs Manager, Ericka Avila at 323.469.8680, ext. 233 or erickaavila@lagrant.com.

The LaGrant Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to increase the number of ethnic minorities in the fields of advertising, marketing and public relations by providing scholarships, career development workshops, internships, professional development and mentors to African American, Asian/Pacific Island American, Native American and Hispanic/Latino undergraduate and graduate students. For more information, please visit www.lagrانتfoundation.org.

Morris K. Udall Scholarship

Morris K. Udall Foundation is pleased to announce our 2009 Scholarship Program opportunities! The Scholarship Program awards eighty \$5,000 merit-based scholarships for college sophomores and juniors seeking a career in tribal health, tribal public policy or the environment. Scholarship recipients participate in a five-day Orientation in Tucson, Ariz., to learn more about tribal and environmental issues.

Applications must be submitted through a Udall Faculty Representative at the student’s college or university. More information about Faculty Representatives can be found on the Udall web site. The application deadline for the 2008 academic year is March 3, 2009. Visit the web site to learn more: <http://udall.gov/>.

Keepers of the Fire scholarship

The “Keepers of the Fire Scholar-

ship” is an annual scholarship program that awards 3 \$500.00 scholarships to American Indian (Indigenous) students attending a college or university in the United States or Canada. The scholarships are given in honor of my parents, Philip L. and Esther J. Niles. My father, Philip Niles, was an enrolled tribal member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma (descended from the Fox family clan) and dedicated his professional life to helping many American Indian tribes throughout the United States through his employment with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

My father was very proud of his ancestors and heritage. Even though he is now deceased, being an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma myself (traditional name of Wakshe – “Red Fox”), it is my way of supporting the education and capacity-building of the American Indian (Indigenous) student population.

The three Keepers of the Fire Scholarships will be given to American Indian (Indigenous) students who are accepted into or registered at a college or university (preferably studying Social Work or American Indian Studies).

The scholarship is a one-time award of \$500.00. The recipients and non-awardees are encouraged to reapply in the following year (Fall 2010).

The nominees must be an enrolled tribal member of any American Indian (Indigenous) tribe or community in the United States or Canada.

Preference will be given to those who are returning to their tribe following their college graduation.

Please submit the following by August 31, 2009 (late or emailed applications will not be reviewed):

Letter of interest, name, contact information, college major, academic level (Freshman, Sophomore, Graduate Student, etc.), and plans following graduation from college to:

Dr. Michael Niles (Wakshe), Office of American Indian Projects, 411 North Central Avenue #880M, Phoenix, AZ 85004 ATTN: Edbesendowen Scholarship Selection Committee or Email: Michael.Niles@asu.edu.

The finalists for the scholarship will be interviewed and awardees notified by September 10, 2009. The scholarships will be given out at an informal ceremony at the School of Social Work – Office of American Indian Projects. Details of the ceremony will be provided at a later date.

Health Professions Pre-Graduate IHS Scholarship

Mail applications to: Indian Health Service Scholarship Programs, 801 Thompson Avenue - Suite 120, Rockville, MD 20852 or call (301) 443-6197 or visit: www.scholarship.ihs.gov.

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial support for American Indians to enroll in courses leading to a bachelor degree in specific preprofessional areas (i.e., premedicine, pre-dentistry).

Eligibility requirements are as follows: American Indian/Alaska Native (federal/state recognized); Accepted or enrolled in full or part time bachelor degree program to prepare for admission to an accredited medical, podiatry, dental or optometry school to meet priority staffing needs identified by IHS; Capacity to complete course of study. Intend to serve Indian people upon completion of education.

Application and priority areas available on web site. Submit application early for technical review by the Area Office; Must apply annually for up to four years full-time or up to eight years part time support. Priority given to Juniors and Seniors. Recipients who meet continued eligibility requirements are given priority consideration for additional periods of support. Awards

Annual awards vary. Funds appropriated by Congress. Must be postmarked no later than March 28, 2009 and arrive at the appropriate office by the next business day - request ligible postmark or receipt.

Continued applications must be postmarked no later than Feb. 28, 2009.

Revis completes Morris K. Udall Foundation congressional internship

by Colin Ben
Morris K. Udall Foundation

WASHINGTON, D.C., — In the summer of 2008, Tracie Revis, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, successfully completed the Morris K. Udall Foundation Native American Congressional Internship in Washington, DC. The 2008 class of interns consisted of 12 students from 11 tribes and 11 colleges and universities. Since its inception in 1996, 149 Native American/Alaska Native students from 98 tribes will have participated in the program.

Revis is pursuing a Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas with an emphasis in Tribal Law. She has worked in Indian country in various aspects, including working with the Indian Child Welfare Act and the abuse and neglect of children. Her interests include family law, environmental law, and natural resource preservation.

Revis completed the intensive, ten-week internship in Washington, D.C. this summer, working full-time in the office of Representative Raúl Grijalva of Arizona, where she observed the federal legislative process first-hand. Special enrichment activities provided her with opportunities to meet with key decision-makers in Washington, D.C. Regarding the internship, Revis stated, “I will cherish my Udall Internship and



Photograph submitted

Creek student Tracie Revis completed the Morris K. Udall Foundation’s summer Native American Congressional Inter

the connections that I have made. I am excited about what I will be able to do with this experience.”

The Morris K. Udall Foundation was authorized by Congress in 1992 to honor Congressman Udall’s legacy of public service. The Foundation is supported by a trust fund in the U.S. Treasury and contributions from the private sector. Congressman Udall served in the House of Representatives for three decades, a career distinguished by civil-

ity, integrity and consensus. He championed the rights of Native Americans and Alaska Natives, using his leadership in Congress to strengthen tribal self-governance and national environmental policy.

For more information on the Morris K. Udall Foundation, please visit www.udall.gov or contact Program Manager, Colin Ben at (520) 901-8568 or by e-mail at ben@udall.gov.

Creek educator offers Native perspective to students

by Jasa Santos
Casper Star-Tribune

CASPER, Wyo., — The University of Wyoming has developed a new graduate course designed to help educators who are teaching on American Indian reservations.

The course, taught by two of the university’s education professors, includes five classes that show educators how to blend American Indian culture and history into lesson plans and classrooms.

“We have learned that there are important advantages to bringing in local culture, language, history, traditions into the classroom,” said Tim Rush, an elementary and early childhood professor. “When we can do that for American Indian students, they do better.”

Rush and fellow professor Angela Jaime developed the course’s curriculum with tribal leaders and educators. American Indian students are very aware their stories aren’t included in modern-day history books, Rush said.

Marty Conrad, a teacher for 35 years, works as an instruction facilitator in Lander and graduated from the pilot course this past spring. He’s also



REZNET/Tetona Dunlap

Creek educator Marty Conrad speaks at Starrett Junior High School about the importance of preserving Native American languages.

an American Indian, with Choctaw and Creek tribal roots.

“These courses really open up eyes on how to teach Native American students,” Conrad said. “There are some differences. Some people don’t know that.”

Those differences range from as

how American Indian families handle the death of a loved one to standing — not sitting — during an honor song.

“Teachers sometimes need to know their (American Indian students’) background, and need to know where their students are from,” Conrad said.

IYFA and OU host Native Youth Summit and Rock and Jam Day

by Susan Arkeketa
Indian Youth and Family Alliance

NORMAN — Indian youth activities and demonstrations are being planned now for the Indian Youth and Family Summit scheduled for March 25 and 26, 2009 at the OCCE Forum on the University of Oklahoma campus.

On March 25, 2009 the whole day will be devoted to youth empowerment through workshops and speakers focused on youth and family issues. Youth councils, counselors, parents, program administrators, educators, and students are encouraged to present workshops or information on their own programs that empower youth and families.

The Summit is hosted by the Indian Youth and Family Alliance and the University of Oklahoma Native American Studies Department. The Indian Youth and Family Alliance is composed of individuals and organizations who work to promote and support Native youth and families in healthy peer, family, community and tribal relations.

The summit is hosted by the

University of Oklahoma Native American Studies Department and the Indian Youth and Family Alliance. The Indian Youth and Family Alliance is composed of individuals and organizations who want to make a difference in American Indian communities.

Objectives: The objectives of the Indian Youth and Family Summit are many and include the following:

- To promote and preserve cultural, language and tradition.
- To help develop youth leadership skills and abilities.
- To promote healthy lifestyles for families and youth.
- To promote and strengthen Indian families and resources.
- To promote and strengthen tribal government leadership.

Workshop topics are not limited. Each workshop presenter must provide for their own expenses for the workshop. Workshop topics suggested include, but are not limited to: youth development and leadership, culture and language, health and mental health issues, college preparation and financ-

ing; art and media projects, grandparent and parent resources and support, juvenile justice and courts, volunteerism, federal Indian law, tribal government, alcohol and substance abuse prevention, alternative education programs, etc.

1. Submit the following attached form with the information required.
2. Workshop should provide a hands-on approach with the participants and keep participants actively involved in the learning process.
3. Workshop and Demonstrations are limited to 50 minutes.
4. Presenters must provide all materials for the workshop.

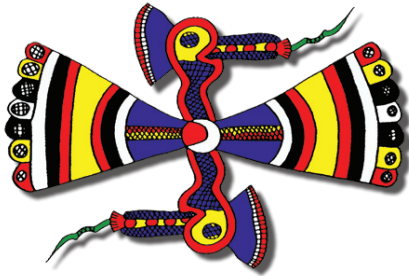
Planning committee members include: Susan Arkeketa, Jerry Bread, Veronica Pipestem, Cherrah Quiett, Dana Tiger.

Anyone who wants to volunteer with the Summit is more than welcome and if you are interested in joining the planning committee or want to present a workshop, please e-mail Susan Arkeketa for workshop information at sarkeketa@cs.com.

Tiger featured at Tulsa Indian Art Fest.



SPOTLIGHT - B5



Mvskoke Bowshooters keeping tradition alive

SPORTS - B



FEATURES

To our Nation’s Capital
• Another six weeks of winter weather to come



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building was covered in a thick, white layer of snow and ice on Wed., Jan. 28 when offices were closed due to inclement weather.

READY FOR SPRING

The offices located on the main complex of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation were closed due to the accumulation of a wintery mix of snow, sleet and ice that showered much of Oklahoma during the last week of Jan. Offices re-opened their doors again on Wed., Jan. 28 at 11 a.m., where some employees found it difficult to get to work, braving the icy roads.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Team along with McIntosh County Emergency Management opened a shelter in Eufaula at the Indian Community Center during the storm. The shelter was available for residents within the Eufaula area without power. For more information you may contact the Eufaula Indian Community Center at (918) 689-4111.

MNNI/Rebecca Landsberry

Photo courtesy of Thompson Gouge

EM takes on the storm
• Responds to the crises across Indian Country

by Thompson Gouge
Public Relations Representative

OKMULGEE – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management team has been on the road the past days and nights setting up a shelter in Eufaula and making deliveries when needed. The winter storms moved through the Green Country area Monday afternoon of Jan. 26.

That same day, Chief Ellis also declared a State of Emergency throughout the jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. From delivering supplies shelters to picking up tribal citizens being released from the hospital, the Emergency Management Team is always on the road during the worst time of weather. Keeping open lines of communications with the MCN Emergency Management, I’ve learned that they do not have the luxury of just relaxing staying home during this time. You will always see that Silver pick up truck up and down the highway providing help not just to tribal citizens, but all other people during a disaster.

The MCN Emergency Management had a meeting with the Tribal Complex Directors and Managers



Pictured above from left to right are Tess Jimboy, James Nichols, Phil Booker and Sylvia Tulsa of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Team who helped out during the winter storm of 2009.

Photo courtesy of Thompson Gouge

just hours before the Principal Chief closed the offices in order to allow employees safely drive home.

This meeting allowed Executive Director Claude Sumner share inclement weather policies and procedures of how each employee should be notified

of the complex closing. As a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation I would like to thank the Emergency Management Team for their hard work through this winter storm for helping not only this tribe but all the communities throughout Creek Nation.

SWAT selling Native Valentine’s Day cards

by Cassandra Harjo
Tobacco Prevention Program

OKEMAH — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program is so proud of the SWAT team’s hard work and accomplishments in 2008 through leadership and advocacy. We are looking forward to another great year of activities and events.

Last year, our youth got to take a little time away from work and education to go to a Driller’s baseball game for a little fun. This year, we would like to take them on another trip of fun-filled activities. As we continue to have our monthly meetings, we will let the youth decide where they would like to go for their “SWEET TREAT DAY.”

SEE SWEET - B8



This and other Valentine’s Day cards will be sold in order to fund upcoming youth activities for the Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) team.

- Tobacco Prevention Program

Tulsa Indian Coalition Against Racism supports SB-765

by Rebecca Landsberry
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The Tulsa Indian Coalition Against Racism (TICAR) hosted a press conference in support of Senate Bill 765 on Fri., Jan. 30 at the Tulsa Press Club located at 415 S. Boston in Tulsa.

Proposed by Sen. Eason McIntyre (D), SB-765 calls for reform of the usage of school or athletic names that may be found to be offensive to Native American tribes across the United States.

In the past, there has been a dispute as to whether national team names that have been around for decades such as the ‘Kansas City Chiefs,’

‘Atlanta Braves,’ and ‘Washington Redskins,’ were offensive to tribes.

The trend has even caught on at some high school and colleges as well, with the recent switch of Oklahoma’s Northeastern State University switching from the ‘Redmen’ to the ‘Riverhawks’ in 2007.

“I’m not a redskin, and I’m not a savage; I’m a person,” said Louis Gray, president of the Tulsa Indian Coalition Against Racism. “And when you objectify people in a negative way, it has meaning and it changes people.”

SEE MASCOT - B8

Artists still needed for 2009 Creek Festival

by Brian On-The-Hill
MCN Tourism and Recreation

OKMULGEE — Tourism and Recreation would like to extend an invitation to all artists in the chartered Creek communities to participate in the 2009 Creek Festival in order to bring more integrity and authenticity to the arts and crafts at the Festival.

If you or someone you know is

an artist or craftsman, please consider purchasing a 15’x20’ booth space at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival in June 2009. All registered Creek citizens may rent a 15’x20’ booth space for \$60, upon proof of citizenship. All other Native Americans (non-Creek citizens) will be charged \$80 (must present valid CDIB card), Non-Natives

will pay \$125 and a \$150 fee will be charged for commercial vendors.

For more information, contact Brian On-The-Hill at (918) 732-7993 to be put on the mailing list to receive booth applications which will be mailed this month. The deadline for submission of applications is 5 p.m., Mon., March 30, 2009.

HISTORY/CULTURE B2

Language program update: Feb. language activity



RELIGION B3

United Methodist Church addresses economic challenges



LIFESTYLES B4

Summer Nicole Hicks



SPOTLIGHT B5

Longhorn returns to MCN Band



OBITUARIES B6

Harry Long



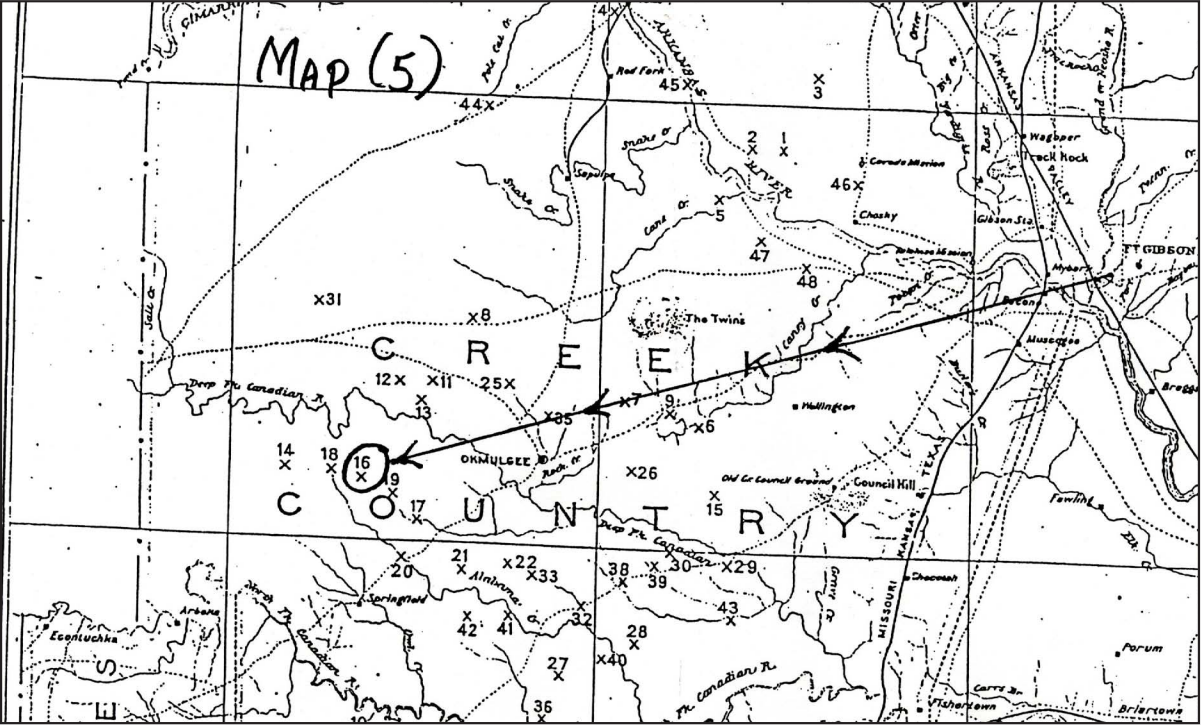
JUMPS B8

Communications Ad



HISTORY/CULTURE

History Series: The relationship of Pakan Tallahassee (Peach Ground) Tribal Town



Arrows indicate approximate locations of current day Pakan Tallahassee (Peach Ground) Map (5), Perryman's.

by Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Cultural Preservation

MCINTOSH COUNTY — The Pakan Tallahassee Tribal Town was a member if the Upper Creek division of the Muscogee Confederacy. Although stated as being a distinct people from the Muscogee, they do now speak the Muscogee tongue. No notable information has been found to confirm that they are definitely distinct. Ohland Morton, Eastern Oklahoma College, Okla., Some Facts Regarding the Creek Town in Indian Territory. Wm. Bartram's List of Maskoki Towns, from his "Travels", pp. 462-64. Swanton, Early History of the Creek Indians and their Neighbors, pp. 272-274.

This report locates the Pakan Tallahassee on Hatchet Creek in the state of Alabama between the

Coosa and the Tallapoosa Rivers in 1717. Swanton, The Indian of the Southeastern United States, p.170: See Map (1).

The Paken Tallahassee Tribal Town was designated as being on the White or Peace side of the Fire. Morris E. Opler, the Creek Indian Towns of Oklahoma in 1937, p. 68.

No movement previous to removal is recorded for the Paken Tallahassee Tribal Town. As reflected in Swanton's map indicating movements, we must assume by this record that Paken Tallahassee maintained this location until removal. See map (1).

To the writer's regret nothing is recorded on the removal of this tribal town and it's route of emigration. Many tribal towns have not been

noted by writers in this particular account. The writer is confident that the information lies obscurely in government record not yet available through the Creek Nation Culture Office. This lack of information however does not impede the fact of arrival and settlement in Indian Territory.

The Pakan Tallahassee Tribal Town settles after removal in the southeastern area of Creek territory. They are noted as one of two tribal towns that have not had other movements in Creek Nation since their first settlement. They are now located some three miles east of Vernon, Oklahoma. Morris Opler, the Creek Indians Towns of Oklahoma in 1937, p. 68. See Map (2), Perryman, 1891.

Preliminary sketch of the Pakan Tallahassee (Peach Ground) Tribal Town

by Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Cultural Preservation

MCINOSH COUNTY — The information for this report presents an interesting dilemma for this trbal town in that recorded entry does not draw a simple straight historical line from Pakan Tallahassee's earliest record to the present. Swaonton has recorded and presented a question as to the continuity of the original Pakana in the tribe in the old Tribalt own of the Pakana people. he states that there was a tribe called the Pakana tribe that was possibly a distinct tribe from the Muscogee and the present day paka Tallahassee people. however, thispoint is a age ashe does not specify what linguistic stock these ancient people were. It is definite tht the Pakana ancient town. As the story is presented, the distinct Pakana tribe separarted andone part enetually settled with the Alabama tribe in east. Swanton says that the remnant of the distinct people that stayed behind to intermarrry with other tribal towns, especially Abihka. he further states that the Abihka is said to have a tradition that stats the Pakana as being a distinct tribe that lost their distinction through such intermarriage and thus became assimilated in this manner. No other knowledge is left regarding them, only that they retained the name of the ancient habitation.

According to the information available by historic record, it is said by many modern Creeks that Pakana may have separated from Abihka. This was no doubt due to to the Pakana tendency for intermarriage with other neighbor-

ing tribal towns, especially Abihka since they were geographically in close proximity to each other.

The modern Pakan Tallahassee also have a tradition which says is separated from the Pakana.

Because of these conflicting traditions, this writer has taken care to consider the data from similarities or rather dissimilarities between

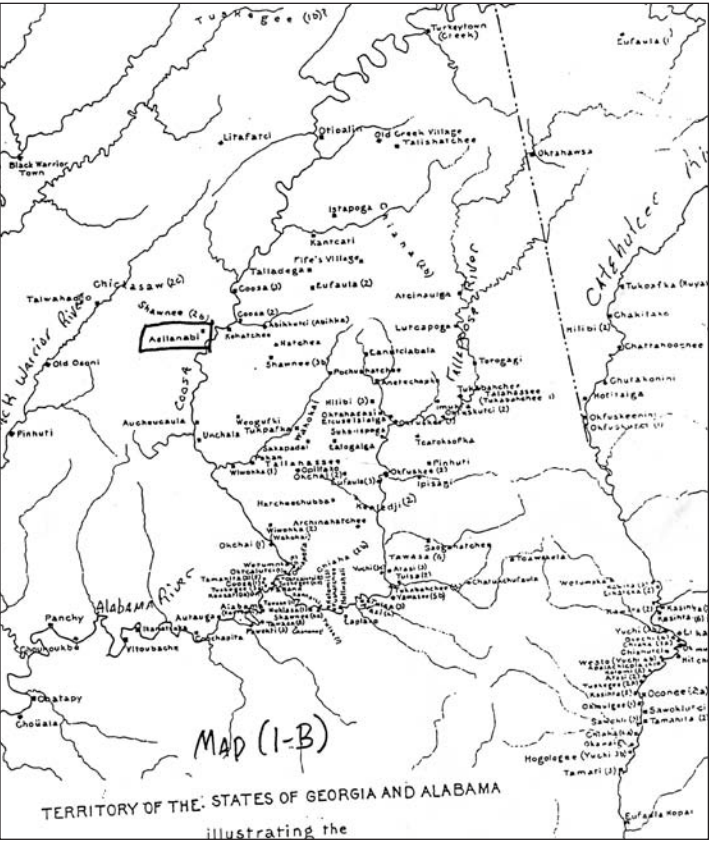
reinforce the traditions of both Abihka and Pakan Tallahassee.

More information on this traditinal story is presented in the report on the Abihka Tribal Town. History indicates taht at some time before 1733, the Pakana Old town was descended from the Old Pakana people.

By 1738, this division of Pakan Tallahassee is listed in the records of Bartrams, Swan and Hawkins. they are also found on the census of 1832.

There is more inforamtion presented singularly by Swanton that any hisoric writer and it is the sole source for this preliminary.

The old square ground diagrams by Swanton presents a definite similarity between the square grounds of Wakokai, Weogufki and Pakan tallahassee. Also noted is information on these three towns relationship. The tribal town of Wakokai is said to the the mother of Weogufki and Pakan Tallahas-



these two grounds. An important factor to consider is that Abihka is marked as being one of the original foundation towns of the Muscogee as told in "Chekilli's" legend, the oldest migration legend told and recorded.

The seating of clans, placement of medicine vessels, the position of the ball pole, and the principle clans differ between these two tribal towns. It must be noted that related towns would have prominent similarities as mentioned. There are the basic similiarities as with all other square grounds, however the prominent similarities taht would indicate a relationship does not appear to

see. No further infomation is given on this aspect of relationship onl that these tribal towns were located close to each other in the east. They seemed to have retained this preference in early Creek Nations of Oklahoma. The earliest known home of these Indians was on Hatchet Creek near the junction of Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers in 1717. Swanton, the Indians of the Southeastern United States, pp.170. Swanton, Early History of the Creek Indians oand their Neighbors, pp. 272-274.

Pakan Tallahassee's current location is located west of Hanna, OK. The current Mekko is Roger Butler of the Wotko Clan.

LANGUAGEUPDATES

Planning ahead for summer's immersion camp

by Kathleen Coachman
Language Program Manager

OKMULGEE — Hensci Readers! Plans are currently underway for this summer's Immersion Camp. The Camp will once again be held at Western Hills Guest Ranch, located in the Sequoyah State Park, 8 miles east of Wagoner, OK. Tentative date is June 01-04, 2009. This year's target group is for students who are currently in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades (School Year 2008-2009). We had a great time last summer, so if you are interested in attending this summer, call the language to receive your application. We will accept application until April 30, 2009.

We received no entries for last month's activity page, therefore, no winners. You can't win unless you enter. I made this month's activity



page a little easier. So put on your Mvskoike Thinking Caps on, fill out the page and return to us to enter into a drawing. The winner will be announced in next month's paper.

MVSKOKE LANGUAGE ACTIVITY

Name: _____

Address: _____

BASIC CONVERSION;

Below is a list of conversation phrases: Write in the correct answer in the blank provided.

(A) Mvskoike opvnakvn kerretv komis.

(B) Estvmen ayestskv?

(C) Mvkapvt oklanet os.

(D) Naken estometskv?

(E) Toknawv palen ocis.

1. That coat is brown. _____

2. Where are you (one) going? _____

3. I hope (wish) to learn Creek _____

4. I have ten dollars _____

5. What are you doing? _____

Complete and send to:

Mvskoike Language Program
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

MVSKOKE LANGUAGE PROGRAM
SUMMER IMMERSION CAMP
2009

ATTENTION: 7th, 8th, & 9th GRADE
STUDENTS

JOIN US IN LEARNING THE
MVSKOKE WAY IN A FUN WAY

WHEN: JUNE 01-04, 2009 (Tentative Date)

WHERE: WESTERN HILLS LODGE
SEQUOYAH RESORT PARK

LOCATED: 9 miles East of Wagoner on Hwy 51

APPLICATION DEADLINE : April 30, 2009

SEND APPLICATION TO: Mvskoike Language Program,

CULTURAL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Peach Ground hosting Valentine's Day bingo

HANNA — Pakan Tallahassee (Peach Ground) will be hosting a Valentines day benefit Bingo on Sat., Feb. 14 at 1 p.m. All proceeds will go toward the Pakan Tallahassee (Peach Ground) Ceremonial Fund.

The event will be held at the Hanna Indian Community Center, approximately three miles east of the Hanna Post office. Everyone Welcome! For more information contact Betsy Taryole at (918) 652-6588.

Fish Pond hosts dance benefiting scholarship fund

SAND SPRINGS, OK - Sand Springs Indian Education will be hosting a Stomp Dance on Sat., Feb. 28, 2009, from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m., at the Clyde Boyd Middle School at 305 W. 35th St., in Sand Springs. Fish Pond Ceremonial Ground will be the host Ground and proceeds benefit the Jerre Brokaw/Alice Kemp Memorial Scholarship fund. For more information contact the Indian education office at (918) 246-1583.

RELIGION

FAITH-BASED NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Sermon building conference

STILLWELL — On Feb. 28, pastors and preachers from all over the state are going to meet at Calvary Baptist Church for a sermon building conference. All preachers, no matter how long in the ministry will benefit from this conference. Not only will we have great teaching, we will also have a time of great preaching as well. Dr. Emerson Falls (Pastor of Glorieta Baptist, and President of our Convention), Roger Haney (Pastor of First Baptist Stilwell), Lit MacIntosh (Pastor of First Baptist Okemah), Brad Hawkins (Pastor of First Baptist Okeene) will be “shuckin corn” for us, encouraging us, challenging us, and modeling for us expository preaching!

We will start at 10 a.m., and be finished at 7p.m. Two meals will be provided. This is going to be an awesome time of learning and encouragement!

Thank you for service

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church would like to thank the Muscogee Creek Nation for all that they do for the faith community within their nation.

The assistance that the tribe gives the churches at Christmas enables, especially the smaller membership churches, the ability to provide a meaningful Christmas experience for the children who some may not be able to have within their homes. This is truly a blessing that you extend to the churches.

The assistance that you give for buildings, upkeep and transportation is also commendable. Through this assistance churches have been able to reach out and touch more lives.

Thank you again and may God’s blessings be upon all the endeavors of

the Muscogee Creek Nation and its leaders.

- Josephine Deere

Wild onion dinners

Little Cussetah Church — March 21, 11:00 top 3:00 p.m., \$8.00 Adult and \$5.00 Children (per plate).

Concharty Methodist Church — March 28, 11:00 to 3:00 p.m., \$8.00 Adult and \$5.00 Children (per plate). Indian Falls Creek Update

Indian Falls Creek update

OKMULGEE — Dates For Indian Falls Creek are set for July 27 - 31, 2009. We are seeking churches to be part of a statewide candy sell. Contact Victor Cope at 405-598-8720 or e-mail ndnrev@aol.com for information concerning Indian Falls Creek 2009. If your church needs any help coming to camp please let us know ASAP.

United Methodist Church addresses economic challenges

Reprinted from the Advocate

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — Economic challenges still lie ahead, but the church has weathered similar downturns. That was one of the conclusions reached by members of The General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) Economic Advisory Committee after its first meeting Friday, December 12, 2008, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Committee is comprised of clergy and lay leaders and includes economists, financial experts, researchers, and church leaders from across the country. It is still in the early stages of developing an outlook for the coming months. Based upon current data and some assumptions of some future events, the group anticipates the economy should be in recovery by the second half of 2009.

The current recession, the weakness in the financial sector, and the downturn in the stock markets have introduced financial challenges for our congregations. We are all concerned about the financial future of our local churches and our denomination as a whole.

It is important to remember that these challenges are similar to those our churches faced during past recessions. Although this time will not be easy for many, and will be very difficult for some, the assembled experts anticipate an economic recovery beginning in the latter months of 2009.

In the United States, giving at the local church level, adjusted for inflation, tends to decline during recessions, and then increase in the years following. During the recession of the early 1980’s, giving dropped 2.43% from 1978 to 1979, then declined another 3.11% in 1980, and another .31% in 1981.

Giving then increased an average of 1.19% for the years 1982-1989. During the recession of the early 1990’s, giving dropped 1.04% in 1990, then increased an average of 2.12% over the next 12 years.

Following the recession of the early 2000’s, giving leveled off again, increasing by 0.19% in 2003 and 0.44% in 2004. Over the last 30 years, local church giving has increased at a 1.28% average annual rate, adjusted for inflation.

Work throughout our denomination continues. Through the generous and faithful giving by local churches to the general funds, The United Methodist Church continues to make a vital difference in the world. We do this through mission programs like the ZOE Ministry in Huye, Rwanda where AIDS orphans are working to grow their own food to earn an income, pay off schooling, gain self-sufficiency, and, in turn, help out others who are in need. In Pittsburgh, PA we are using text messaging and other forms of news media in innovative ways to connect young people with our churches. We are making an impact on important legislation like the Second Chance Act, which provides vital federal funding to organizations working to transition people from prisons and jails back to their communities. We are building up a new generation of faith-filled leaders to go out and start new congregations and revitalize existing churches around the world.

We know that many are wondering if it is still “business as usual” for the general agencies of the church. As annual conferences struggle to fully pay general funds apportionments, we have been asked what the general church can do to lessen the financial load on annual conferences.

The Discipline provides few options to change the approved apportionment factors for the coming 2009-2012 quadrennium. Although the formula is designed to adapt to changing financial conditions in the local church, the historical nature of the statistical data we use in calculations means that this formula may not exactly reflect current economic conditions. We will continue to look for ways to ease the financial burdens of our annual conferences through any means possible.

We do not believe this is the time for “business as usual” for any United Methodist entity. The leaders of the general agencies are adjusting their spending plans to adapt to the still-emerging economic picture. We will, through the Economic Advisory Committee, continue to study and monitor economic conditions and regularly report our findings to the leadership of the agencies.

Haikey makes a difference ‘N.O.W.’

Sunrise Ross

Haikey Chapel

MUSKOGEE — As tradition throughout OIMC, churches prepare for the Christmas Program event of the season. In April 2008, the N.O.W., Committee felt the need to reach out into the Indian community in some way, so they tracked down the needs of the Murrow Indian Children’s Home located in Muskogee, Okla.

To their surprise they found Alicia (who happened to be a Muscogee Creek) who needed to have a sponsor. The committee challenged the congregation one Sunday each month to give from the heart, and not from obligation to help sponsor little Ms. Alicia and to their surprise the congregation met the challenge.

One committee member (Karen Barrett) thought how awesome it would be to actually meet this little Ms. Alicia in person and the pastor of Haikey Chapel (Rev. July Tecumseh) helped make that wish come true. Rev. Tecumseh visited the home to invite not only Ms. Alicia to the Christmas program he also invited all the children of Murrow Indian Children’s home and what a treat that was for the congregation!

Special gifts were purchased by individual members to give to all children of the home. As the children came to enjoy the night’s program, they were totally unaware of special gifts just for them. The congregation enjoyed the program as well as the refreshments provided afterwards.

Haikey Chapel got the biggest gift of all, when the children were gathered back into the sanctuary to open their special gifts from the members and the look on the girls’ faces was priceless. One of the girls made the statement “this is the best Christmas I ever had, thank you for inviting us.”

To know that some of the simplest of things that our children take advantage of, i.e. a new pair of jeans, little jewelry trinkets, or even a new blouse, can bring such smiles on the face of a not so fortunate child. One of the things that the N.O.W., committee wanted to show the children of Haikey Chapel was is just how good things are in their little world and also how we as a church can make a simple difference in some else’s life.

Peace with Justice grant applications due Feb. 15

Media Release

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Feb. 15 is the deadline to apply for a Peace with Justice grant from the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (GBCS).

Funding for this program is generated through the Peace with Justice Special Sunday offering of The United Methodist Church.

One of six Special Sundays in the denomination, Peace with Justice “witnesses to God’s demands for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world.” Peace with Justice Sunday is June 7 in 2009.

Peace with Justice grants are awarded annually. In 2008, awards totaled \$51,000. Grant applicants must be either a United Methodist or other affiliated organization,

or an ecumenical group working with and through at least one United Methodist agency or organization. Applicants must work toward achieving at least one of the following objectives:

Assist United Methodists in understanding and responding to violence and militarism, and in moving and leading nations and peoples to reconciliation, transformation, and redemption.

Involve and develop principal leaders among United Methodists and enjoy the general public in efforts to end conflicts, human rights violations and violent aggression around the world.

Promote just national and international policies and actions (governmental and non-governmental)


seeking to address poverty and restore communities.

Support policies that promote systematic economic justice and the self-development of peoples, in particular to respond to the disproportionate effect of injustices on racial, indigenous and ethnic persons.

Preference will be given to institutions related to the United Methodist Church, then to first-time requests and, finally, to those including an advocacy component in their program or project.

Applications will be evaluated at the March meeting of GBGS’s Board of Directors.

For more information or to request an application form also, contact Mark Harrison, GBGS director of Peace with Justice, (202) 488-5645. Applicants may seek assistance in filling out the form, which is available by contacting Marvlyn Scott, (202) 488-5643.




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LIFESTYLES

BIRTHDAYS

Jayme Nicole Chuckluck

COMMERCE — Jayme Chuckluck of Commerce was nominated by the Criminal Justice Club to compete for the NEO A&M 2008 homecoming queen. She is a Criminal Justice Major and also Native American Studies major. She is the daughter of Greg and Felicia (Haynes) Chuckluck. She is the granddaughter of Felix and Gloria Haynes of Okmulgee and Rev. Bridge and Linda Chuckluck of Salina. She is also the great-granddaughter of the late Jay and Annie Haynes and Bridge And Annie Chuckluck.

Jayme and her family want to thank Cheneena Davis and her staff for all of the assistance they have given her to help further her education. Jayme will receive a degree in Criminal Justice and Native American Studies in May of 2009.



Wyatt Gregory Chuckluck

COMMERCE — Wyatt Gregory Chuckluck turned 11 on Dec 23. He is in the fourth grade at Alexander Elementary. He had a birthday dinner at Charlie's Chicken with family and friends.

He has an older sister, Jayme, and a younger sister, Annie. He is the son of Greg and Felicia (Haynes) Chuckluck.

Wyatt is the grandson of Felix and Gloria Haynes of Okmulgee and Rev. Bridge and Linda Chuckluck of Salina.

He is also the great-grandson of the late Jay and Annie Haynes and Bridge and Annie Chuckluck.



April Rochelle Semihoye Hester

CINCINNATI, Ohio, — April celebrated her 25th birthday in Cincinnati where she resides. April works as a hairstylist and part-time student at Northern Kentucky University. She is studying history.

Parents are Sophia Swain and Mark C. Hester.
Siblings are Amanda, Josh, Michelle and Brandon.
Maternal grandparents are Agnes Lewis and Ray C. Swain.
Paternal grandparents are Patricia Galvez and Don Hester.
Maternal great-grandparents are Sally Jacobs and David B. Lewis.



Amanda Danielle Shawnee Lewis-Hester

CINCINNATI, Ohio, — Amanda celebrated her 25th birthday in Cincinnati where she resides. Amanda is a student at Northern Kentucky University and is seeking her degree in Social work.

Parents are Sophia Swain and Mark C. Hester.
Siblings are April, Josh, Michelle and Brandon.
Maternal grandparents are Agnes Lewis and Ray C. Swain.
Paternal grandparents are Patricia Galvez and Don Hester.
Maternal great-grandparents are Sally Jacobs and David B. Lewis.



BIRTHS

Freeman Dominic "Lucvce" Wamego

EUFAULA — Freeman "Lucvce" Wamego was born October 24, 2008 to G. Micco Wamego and Sarah Lance-Lawson.

He is the grandson of Madeline Lance and Ella Bailey. He is also the great grandson of Mary, Rhoda, and Toney Barnett of Eu-faula.

Lucvce is a member of the Bird Clan and his Tribal Town is Yardeka.



Joshua Lewis Yohu Lane Swain-Hester

CINCINNATI, Ohio, — Joshua attended Bacone College for his first year then transferred to Cincinnati Christian University where he resides. He has taken breaks to go on mission trips to Yakama Indian Reservation, India, Nepal and South Africa. His desire is to be a missionary.

Parents are Sophia Swain and Mark C. Hester.
Siblings are April, Amanda, Michelle and Brandon.
Maternal grandparents are Agnes Lewis and Ray C. Swain.
Paternal grandparents are Patricia Galvez and Don Hester.
Maternal great-grandparents are Sally Jacobs and David B. Lewis.



Summer Nicole Hicks

SHAWNEE — Summer Nicole Hicks was born Dec. 23, 2008 at Unity North Hospital in Shawnee. She weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces and was 20 inches long.

She is the daughter of Brandie Peacore and Jordan Hicks and the granddaughter of Carol Hicks and the late David Peacore, and Donna King and Jimmy King.

She is of the Sweet Potato Clan and Muddy Waters Tribal Town.



Asia Nicole-Ashley Samuel

CLAREMORE — Asia Nicole-Ashley Samuel was born at Claremore Indian Hospital on Jan. 5, 2009. She weighed 8 pounds 11 ounces and was 20 ½ inches in length.

Siblings are Kristian, Ruby, Uriah, Mable and Aerielle.
Maternal grandparents are Norman and Cody Daniel.
Paternal grandparents are Ray and Betty Samuel.
Maternal great-grandparents are Johnny Daniel and Norma Bible.
Paternal great-grandparents are Lois and Madeline Watashe.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Randy Lee July Jr.

TULSA— Randy Lee July Jr. was selected as one of the top 16 Native student/athletes from an elite group of individuals to participate in the 2008 Native Elite Sports (N.E.S) in June of 08. This was his second year being selected.

It was the third year fro the national event an coaches from across the country were in attendance to scout Prospective players. The two day event was held at Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Iowa. Players played an All-Star game, a Three Point Contest and a Slam Dunk Contest.

He participated in the Slam Dunk Contest and took first place and received the title of being “National Native American Slam Dunk Champ”, for the second year in a row.

He is currently attending Sterling College and is on the Varsity Basketball Team.



Leslie Lindsey Hicks

TULSA— Graduated from the Community Care College Tulsa in the fall of 2008. She was recognized and acknowledged for the outstanding student in the Health Service Administration.

Leslie we know that your dad would have been more than happy to had been at your graduation. He always knew you could do it! We wish you well in your new field.

Leslie is the daughter of Alice Buckley Lindsey and the late Thomas J. Lindsey of Bristow. She is also the granddaughter of the late Columbia Lindsey, and Amy Jose Lindsey of Oklahoma City, the late Fannie McNac Buckley and the late Sam Buckley both of Weleetka.

Leslie is of the Deer Clan and belongs to Hickory Ground.



Birthdays, Births & Special Announcements!

Birthday:

Roll Number: _____
Phone Number: (____) _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Theme of the party: _____
Parents: _____
Siblings: _____
Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____
School: _____
Clan: _____
Tribal Town: _____



Birth:

Roll Number: _____
Phone Number: (____) _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Name of Hospital: _____
Weight: _____ pounds _____ ounces _____ inches
Parents: _____
Siblings: _____
Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____
Clan: _____
Tribal Town: _____



Announcements:

Roll Number: _____
Phone Number: (____) _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
Parents: _____
Siblings: _____
Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____
Clan: _____
Tribal Town: _____
Please attach announcement



Coming and Going in Indian Country

by Joy Harjo



One of those markers of giant political shifts occurred last week, as Erin Thin Elk Contreras drove me across the homelands of her people, after picking me up from the Sioux Falls Airport. Her bright spirit stirred me from the sleepless haze of my all-night flight, and I remain impressed by the way she walked nimbly over ice and snow in high heels as she wheeled my suitcase to her car. (Now that's a skill, another new category for the Olympics!) For the first time in U.S. history, Barack Obama, a visionary leader and a black man was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States.

We tuned to listen to Barack Obama's inauguration speech on the AM station, as we headed out for Vermillion over sunlit plains. Our ears perched close to listen as he accepted the presidency of this very young and troubled country. In Obama's voice the whole world heard that his mind is clear, free of clouded and contentious knots. We appreciated the finely crafted oratory of Obama's speech, and the careful choice of words spoken to bring American citizens together into a vision of helpfulness and compassion. There is a direct connection between the clarity and resonance of one's speech and the shine of character. In Obama we have the gift of an intelligent man. How refreshing. You can hear in his voice that he listens to the ancestors.

The last election gave us a man who said: "Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we."— Washington, D.C., Aug. 5, 2004. He left the country in a wreck.

Many questions surfaced as I listened, and later watched the inaugural events on television in my hotel room. Will there ever, or can there ever be an indigenous president? Where are our indigenous leaders, those who can bring us together, can inspire us? We need those who can see with Seventh-Generation eyes. We need to see beyond skin color, past laws and rules that go in and out of season, such as the recent attempts to throw away children and grandchildren because they don't have the requisite amount of blood. (We aren't pedigreed dogs. We are human beings.)

Very early the next morning Erin picked me up to drive me back to the airport. At twenty-nine she's a very young administrator in the university's diversity program, the Indian student advisor, and is the mother of three young children. The youngest, not much over two-years-old, dozed in her car seat as we drove East in the dark.

Erin and I talked carefully in the dawning morning. At dawn the crack between worlds opens. This day we carried hope for our country. And this day, like every day has a soul. We shared stories that mattered to us. She spoke carefully, with clarity. In her I heard the old people. I heard the young, smart and beautiful young Lakota woman whose life is a balancing act between the eternal and the everyday. In her I saw that we are growing our indigenous leaders. They are among us.

Longhorn returns to MCN Band

by Angel Ellis
MNN Senior Writer

NORMAN — Lee Longhorn-Bucktrot, son of Alvin and Patsy Bucktrot, is proud to announce that he will be returning as the music director for the 2009 "Pride of Mvskoke Nation" Marching Band. Longhorn will be leading the band in a performance during the 2009 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Parade and Festival.

Under his leadership, the band will be planning various activities and scheduling performances as the opportunities become available. Some possible musical selections for this year's band may include such favorites as "Highlights from West Side Story," "Pop, Rock and Roll," "Movies of the 80's," "The Incredibles," "Latin Fire!," "Veterans Salute," "Dance (featuring music from each of the decades of the 20th Century)," "Disney Heroes and Villains" and "At the Tony's (selections from Broadway)."

Longhorn brings an exciting background in both band and musical performance. This intriguing young Muscogee (Creek) citizen is currently a junior at the University of Oklahoma where he majors in both Native American Studies and Journalism with a minor in Anthropology. In addition to his studies,



Photograph submitted by Lee Longhorn

Pictured above is Lee Longhorn in his "Pride of Oklahoma" Marching Band uniform along with one of the University of Oklahoma's mascot Boomer. Lee will also serve as the 2009 Music Leader for the Pride of Mvskoke Nation Marching Band.

Longhorn is an Alto/Tenor Saxophone player and a three-year member of the "Pride of Oklahoma" Marching Band.

In a recent letter to the Muscogee Nation News, Longhorn said, "I am proud of all the Mvskoke students who are enrolled in a music ensemble and music that the band produces."

This bright young advocate of music for native youth is seeking tribal members who are interested in joining the band. Prospective members, of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or other tribes, should have one-year of experi-

Nation Housing Department at 918-759-4172.

Participation in the band is open to all Native American students who meet the prerequisite criteria and reside within the boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek)

"I'm proud of all the Mvskoke students who are enrolled in a music ensemble and continue to study music and look forward to working the musical students and parents of the band." - Lee Longhorn

continue to study music." He continued with, "I look forward to working with the musical students and parents of the band members, as well as the

ence in a musical ensemble and their own instrument(s). Prospective participants of the band should contact Melinda Deeringwater in the Creek

Nation. If you would like to contact Lee Longhorn for more information about the band, you may do so by e-mail at Lee.A.Longhorn-1@ou.edu.

Tiger featured at Tulsa Indian Art Fest.

by Angel Ellis
MNN Senior Writer

TULSA — Twenty three years ago when The American Indian Theater presented "The Trial of Standing Bear", Randolph Mantooth traveled from California to Tulsa to portray the character "Standing Bear". He commented to Monetta Trepp that, since Tulsa is in the heart of Indian Country, Indian artwork should play a prominent role in the city. Due to a lacking presence of native artwork, Monetta and five of her friends ultimately conceived the Tulsa Indian Art Festival in 1986 during a lunch meeting. The goal of the festival was to showcase the outstanding artwork of Oklahoma's Indian Country and to create an awareness of the rich and diverse cultures of American Indians. At that time, there was no other annual Indian fine art market in Oklahoma. Without an existing infrastructure of money and artist networks, the founders relied only on their faith and determination.

On March 20, 1987, the first Tulsa Indian Art Festival was held in the Pavilion at Expo Square in Tulsa. Ben Shoemaker, the featured artist, donated his creation, "The First Night", to the Theatre Company. Approximately 40 artists contributed exhibits for the festival and nearly 100 dancers participated in the Pow Wow. The Grand Entry enthralled each spectator at the festival; many local Indians arrived in traditional dress and participated in the activities. Such a magical event is still remembered after 23 years.

The 2009 featured artist, Jon Tiger, will available for poster signing during the Opening Night Celebration, which begins at 7 p.m., on Fri., Feb. 13. A sample of this talented Muscogee (Creek) citizen's work can be seen on the invitation.

The theme of Jon's work is sharing the beauty of native customs and cultures that surround us, especially the Creek citizens. The Creek ball stick represents the game called "Little Brother of War."



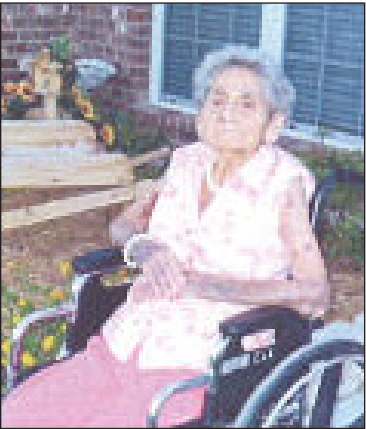
Photograph submitted by Lee Longhorn

Pictured above is Lee Longhorn in his "Pride of Oklahoma" Marching Band uniform along with one of the University of Oklahoma's mascot Boomer. Lee will also serve as the 2009 Music Leader for the Pride of Mvskoke Nation Marching Band.

This rough game teaches physical strength, endurance, and tolerance. It is played during the celebration of the new corn harvest. The subjects are dressed in their finest Creek attire during ceremonial celebration. They celebrate their lives together. The Golden Eagle flies across the Tulsa skyline. Tulsa is a Creek town in which Locapokv was the primary tribal town after removal from the Southeastern United States. We still celebrate the observance of the Council Oak Tree Ceremony. The carved shell gorget represents our ancestors. Only mound sites remain of the mound builder culture. The cross incised in the gorget represents the four directions within the sacred circle. The tail feathers of the Golden Eagle represent our military service men and women who fight for our freedoms that we may take for granted. Our military warriors stand guard to protect our right to express ourselves and celebrate as a free people.

OBITUARIES

ELLA J. BENDER



OKEMAH — Ella Joan Bender was called to heaven Jan. 18 at the age of 90 years. Ella was born Dec. 2, 1918 to Robert and Alice (Drew) Colbert in Vian, was devoted to her family and showed spiritual guidance to everyone. She lived the majority of her life in Cromwell and was a member of the Green Leaf Indian Baptist Church.

Ella is preceded in death by her husband Bennie Bender, Brother Robert Colbert, and two sons John Frank Bender and Nelson Harjo. She is survived by her 10 children, Alice Harjo of Arcadia, Edmond Bender of Cali., Mary Harjo of Plano, Texas, Bennie Joe Bender of Shawnee, Sam Bender of Cromwell, Betty Jones of Royse City, Texas, Debbie Ridge of Tulsa, Jen0 Bender of Oklahoma City, Leah Labrada and George Bender both of Allen, Texas

She leaves behind 36 grandchildren, 72 great grandchildren, and 17 great-great grandchildren. Ella Joan Bender will be truly missed by everyone. The family would like to give special thanks to Buck Porter Bear, Courtney Factor, And Rita Harjo for being caregivers to Ella.

Funeral was held Thurs., Jan. 22 at the Green Leaf Indian Baptist Church and was officiated by Rev. Jimmy Anderson and Rev. Alex Phillips.

Pall Bearers for Mrs. Bender were Speedy Harjo, Steven Harjo, Bryan Harjo, Rick Colbert, Allen Colbert, and Mitch Price. Honorary Pall Bearers are Bobby Harjo, J.D. Wind, Toby Hill, Ed Bender, David Hill, and Porter Bear.

ALLEN YARGEE



OKLAHOMA CITY — The first time you ever met Allen you became friends. He had a smile that warmed the sun.

Allen was a nurse by profession and he took that to heart. If an Indian was in Presbyterian Hospital, he knew and he checked on them. It didn't matter that the patient was not on his wing or rotation. And for the elderly it was always more reassuring for them to see another brown face. The environment became much more friendly for them.

Not only did Allen work tirelessly in his profession, he worked for his church denomination and the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association. Even though his health was not the best, as chairman he made many trips to the Muscogee Creek Nation complex lobbying for the needs of the Oklahoma City Muscogee Creek Association.

His work in the church went beyond his local church. He comforted many grieving families over the loss of a family member. It was not unusual for him to stop at a funeral and pray with

a family and tell them he couldn't stay because he was on his way to another tribal member's funeral. Allen's voice carried our tribal hymns high to the Creator. Now we will have to sing for him and hope we can carry our songs as high.

He loved his family, and was especially devoted to his grandchildren. He loved his church. He loved his Muscogee Community and heritage.

Allen helped put back into the OCMA community the Muscogee language and traditions.

Allen will be sorely missed and it won't be the same without him, but we know we will feel him in our presence encouraging us to carry on.

REV. HARRY LONG



MUSKOGEE — God has called home a great man. He was born in the Salt Creek Community to Thomas Long, Jr. and Martha (Berryhill) Long.

Reverend Long was preceded in death by one sister, Christie Jo Hance and three brothers, Nathan Long, Thomas Long, III and Maxie Knight.

He married Mulsey (Tarpalechee) Long on May 19, 1947. They had six children; Larry Long (deceased), Beverly (Sister) Long, Stephen (Wotko) Long, both of Muskogee, Taylor (Bug) Long of Casa Grande, Ariz., Gary Long and Joan Miles – Long of San Carlos, Ariz., and Starr Long of Muskogee. Reverend Long also had nine grandchildren; Richard of Maricopa, Ariz, Georgiana (Deceased), Cheryl, of Shawnee, Sarv and Nokose, both of Carson City, Nev. And Gabriel of Phoenix Ariz. He also had six great grandchildren; Monique, Mia, Espoke, Rayne, Miske, Kash (Lvpke), Kaiya (Emkv) and one on the way, as well as numerous "grand dogs."

Harry was sent to boarding school at Bacone in the 1920s and Texas Military School in Terrell, Texas. He served in the United States Marine Corps. In WWII he served as a gunner in THS Special Weapons Battalion. He was in the Invasion Forces that attacked Tarawa and Okinawa and also served in Guam.

Harry had a spirit about him that people enjoyed. He was ordained as a United Methodist Pastor in 1947 in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. He served many churches throughout Oklahoma and Kansas as well as serving as an Ecumenical Worker for the reservations around San Diego County and as pastor of the Quechan Reservation in Yuma, Ariz. He also served in a street ministry in Phoenix, Ariz., that was known as the Ministry of Presence. He started the Native American Ministry in Phoenix and then moved to Brighton, Fla., to serve among the Seminole. From there he went to Oklahoma to serve the Indian Methodist Churches until retiring in 1997.

Wake services were held on Wed., Dec. 10 in the Bradley Belltower Chapel. Funeral Services were held Thurs., Dec. 11 at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Muskogee. Interment followed at Fort Gibson National Cemetery with Taylor "Bug" Long, Stephen Wotko Long, Gary Long, Richard Long, Nokose Long, Gabriel Long, Espoke Lee Long, and Jason Jones serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Donald Long,

Nathan Long Jr., Bobby Long, Guy Long, Christopher Aultman, Randy Aultman, Greg Aultman, Lyle Deere, Floyd Jones, Edward Michael Tarpalechee, Yarme "Cheba" Tarpalechee, David Long III, and Kash Lvpke Rakosky.

Thank God for the life of Harry long. Mvto.

JOHN ALEXANDER

John Alexander was born on Feb. 5, 1946 in Lamar to George "Toby" Alexander and Hattie Bruner Alexander. He passed away on Oct. 15 in Tulsa at the age of 62. His parents preceded him in death.

He was raised in Wichita, Kan. He was baptized on Dec. 2, 1956 in Wichita. He served two years in the U.S. Army. He was married to Vicki John on Aug.4, 1966. She preceded him in death.

He is survived by his sons John Alexander, Jr., of Sand Springs, Brian Alexander of Tulsa, one grandson, Cody Alexander of Sand Springs, six sisters Abbie Larney of Holdenville, Martha Jimboy of lexington, Esther Pick-Up of Chouteau, Margaret Alexander of Lawrence Kansas, Emma Perry of Lawrence Kasnas and Clara Keawphalouk of Seminole.

Funeral Services were October 18 at Middle Creek Baptist Church #1 in Lamar with Rev. Joe Bruner Sr., Rev. Robert Berryhill, and Rev. Mark Smith officiating. Burial was at Carson Cemetery in Carson with military rites by the Creek Nation Honor Guard and officiated by Rev. Jimmy Alexander and Rev. Edwin Jimboy.

Pallbearers: Raymond Watson, Cecil Watson Jr., Mark jimboy, Micco Wesley, James Jimboy, Katcv Larney, Jalin Keawphalouk and Andreios Alexander.

Honorary Pallbearers: Rick Harjo, Pete Johnson, Phillip Bear, Joe Bruner Sr., Marvin Bear, Reed George, Eddie Alexander, James Bear, Russell Larney, and Dennis Bear. Services under the direction of Hudson-Phillips of Holdenville, Okla.

THANK YOU

MORRIS — Our family would like to say thank you to the Arbeka Ceremonial Ground, the Big Cussetah Methodist Church, Mitchell Taylor, Dale Litsey, Dewar Indian Community, Checotah (Creek) Indian Community, and Shurden Funeral Home for all the help you provided during our time of need. To the Muscogee Nation Honor Guard we say a special thank you for saluting our veteran, husband, father, and grandfather. Also, we would like to say Thank you to the Lighthorsemen who help to make the transition from the church to the cemetery a safe one. Although we were unfocused and saddened we especially want to thank the many friends and family that came to visit us during our time of need. You may have brought food or flowers and we may not have had the chance to visit we want you to know that you encouraged us with your presence. Mvto from the Jim Hicks Family, his son and his brother.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the family of John Alexander, Sr. - we would like to say thank you to the Middle Creek Baptistt Church #1 - Pastor Mark Smith and his church members for assisting in the funeral. Thank you for the prayers, meals and showing the family your love. Thank you to our relatives and friends. Special thank you to Rev. Joe Bruner, Sr. Rev. Robert Berryhill, Rev. Jimmy Alexander and Rev. Edwin Jimboy. Also to the Creek Nation Honor Guard. Your help was greatly appreciated. May God bless you all!

John Alexander Sr. Family

District Court filings for December 2008

Civil:	
Muscogee (Creek) Nation v. Two Thousand Five Hundred dollars and no/100 (\$2500.00) and Five Hundred dollars and no/100 (\$500)	Notice of Seizure and Intended Forfeiture
Lauren Goodvoice v. Jennie McNac	Petition
MCN Consumer Loans v. Victor Berryhill	Small Claims
Security Finance v. Carol Humble	Small Claims
Security Finance v. Joshua Haskew	Small Claims

Muscogee (Creek) Nation, ex rel., Jack Shackelford, Chief of Police, Lighthorse v. Certain Property, whether stolen, embezzled, lost, abandoned or otherwise obtained being unknown or unclaimed	Application
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Melody McPerryman v. Charly Hicks	Petition
Krystal Wind v. Freeland Lindsey	Petition

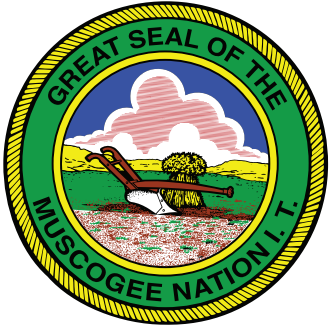
Muscogee (Creek) Nation v. One Thousand, Six Hundred Dollars and no/100 (\$1,600.00) Cash Jackpot	Notice of Seizure and Intended Forfeiture
Muscogee (Creek) Nation v. One Hundred Fifty-Five and no/100 (\$155.00)	Notice of Seizure and Intended Forfeiture

Divorce:	
Leney McNac Jr. v. Mindy McNac	Divorce
Athena Cofer-Boutte v. John Boutte	Divorce
Thomas Matthews v. Shelly Matthews	Divorce
Bobby Harjo v. Gwendolyn Harjo	Divorce
Lowell Wesley v. Doris Wesley	Divorce
Jessina McBee v. Roderick McBee	Divorce
Sarah Taylor v. Carl Grauberger IV	Divorce
Michael Harrell v. Kristen Harrell	Divorce
Cheryl Buckley v. Jeffrey Meely	Divorce
Ashley Cash v. Wendell Stafford Jr.	Divorce
Jacob Ahtone v. Shannon Ahtone	Divorce
Carmela Cook v. Bary Cook	Divorce

Family Domestic:	
CSE, ex rel., Jennifer Kitchens v. Charles Mohan	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Tracie Powell v. James Charlie	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Sarah Taylor v. Jon Smithee	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Jesse Keigley v. Courtney Keigley	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Patsy Moore v. Robert Moore	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Dana Thompson v. George Phillip Jr.	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Hillary Martin v. Chad Deere	Child Support
Christopher Sims v. CSE, ex rel., Deborah Stafford	Child Support
CSE, ex rel., Amber Wells v. Jon Withers	Child Support

Ex-Parte:	
Yvonne Antelope v. William Littlehead	Ex-Parte
Janice Berryhill v. Katherine Harrison & Chad Hill	Ex-Parte
Tina Dee, on behalf of minor child T.D. v. T.T., minor child	Ex-Parte
Kaira Barnett v. Nicholas Pigeon	Ex-Parte

Criminal Misdemeanors:	
MCN v. Robert Walters	Ct. 1: Public Intoxication
MCN v. Shawn Tyndall	Ct. 1: Sale or Delivery of Tobacco Products to a child prohibited
MCN v. Julia Grammar	Ct. 1: Sale or Delivery of Tobacco Products to a child prohibited
MCN v. Mekko McGirt	Ct. 1: Sale or Delivery of Tobacco Products to a child prohibited
MCN v. Cynthia Cain	Ct. 1: Sale or Delivery of Tobacco Products to a child prohibited
MCN v. Misty Hudson	Ct. 1: Trespassing



FAMILY MEMBERS OF
MILITARY ACTIVE DUTY
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZENS

It is requested that family members of Military Active Duty, National Guard and Reserves kindly call or write to the Veterans Affairs Services Office (VASO) to provide the following:

- Name
- Service Branch
- Unit
- Mailing Address
- E-mail Address
- Any and all pertinent information you wish to provide

The Requested purpose of this information is to publicly honor and recognize our tribal citizens on Military Active Duty, National Guard and Reserves.

Please contact:
Shawn Taryole
(918) 732-7745
staryole@muscogeenation-nsn.gov
Ken Davis
(918) 732-7739
kendavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov
P.O. Box 580 • Okmulgee, OK 74447

Mvskoke Bowshooters keeping tradition alive

• Cvkotakse Seccvlke aims to bring back awareness to the sacred art of Creek bow making and shooting

by Jason Salsman
MNN Sports Reporter

OKMULGEE — While traveling Interstate 75, near the Muscogee (Creek) Nation complex, you may see a gathering of folks shooting traditional Mvskoke bows. Don't be alarmed, you haven't driven into a time warp and entered the past, it's just *Cvkotakse Seccvlke* and they are doing their part to keep Creek tradition alive.

"We started this about a year and a half ago," said Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Patrick Moore. "It's a way for us to encourage and advance our cultural activities."

Once a month, the bow shooters meet at the complex grounds to shoot traditional hand-made bows and arrows at targets of stacked cornstalks that are placed 100 yards apart. The shooters are scored according to the number of cornstalks their arrows have pierced once the target is hit. Games are played to 50 points and are followed by a short break. Not only are the shooters encouraged to use traditional weaponry but there are other events happening simultaneously at the complex that make it a diverse and entertaining gathering.

"We have great competition out here as well as some traditional gaming, with bets being placed on accuracy," said Moore. "At our last shoot we even had people throwing tomahawks and knives at playing cards."

The shooters' society began as a brainchild of Mvskoke cvkotakse hayv ("bow maker"), Mike Berryhill. Berryhill, who has crafted traditional Creek bows for many



Photo courtesy of Paul Orosco

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Patrick Moore takes part in the monthly Mvskoke Cvkotakse Seccvlke bow shoot on Sun., Jan. 18, 2009 on the complex grounds.

years, first became interested when he observed a similar group of shooters at the Cherokee Nation; he decided to enlist the support of Judge Moore and others who were interested in reviving one of our oldest cultural traditions.

The society will once again showcase its demonstrations at this year's Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Festival. The Festival shoot is unique in that it encourages all shooters to participate in full cultural dress.

"Last year was our first year to be a part of the festival activities and it really went well," said Jerrad Moore, one of the founding members of Cvkotakse Seccvlke. "We are encouraged by the fact that there are people out there who care enough about our culture to put effort into activities that keep it moving forward."

This year's festival bow shoot will take place on the west side of the Capitol complex and will begin Fri., June 19 and will conclude on Sat., June 20; a traditional fire will be set alight on Friday evening.

In addition to this year's Festival, the society has also planned an event with the Cherokee Nation. The Cherokee bow shooters will be hosting

"Shoot of the Nations" on June 29, 2009. There will be more information on this historic event in upcoming months.

For more information on Cvkotakse Seccvlke or to be placed on the mailing list for future events, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court offices at (918) 758-1400 or by email at okmulgeeindianlaw@yahoo.com.



Native Sports Rush makes debut

• All-Indian sports talk show takes off on CW12/19

Media Release
MCN Communications

OKMULGEE — The Native Sports Rush, a 30-minute monthly showcase of the sports world from an Indian perspective, has debuted on Tulsa's CW12/19. The inaugural episode aired on January 31 at 2 p.m., immediately following the regularly scheduled broadcast of Native News Today.

The show, the first of its kind in the state of Oklahoma, features a roundtable format of Native sports journalists coupled with packaged stories on Indian sports stars of the past, present and future.

Hosting the show is Muscogee Nation News sports editor Jason Salsman along with Gerald Wofford, the president of the Native American Boxing Council. Joining as in-studio analysts are Brent Cahwee, cofounder of the popular NDNsports.com web site, and Eric

Bailey who serves as beat writer for Tulsa Golden Hurricane athletics at the Tulsa World.

"I think I speak for all of us when I say that we're really excited for this

event.

"This is historic," said Cahwee. "When we were shooting the first episode I had realized that what we were doing had never been done before in Indian Country. It's an honor to be a part of it."

The shows next scheduled episode will be Feb. 28 at 2 p.m., and promises to include more Native sports news and happenings from across the country. Maybe even a little more exposure nationally on the airwaves as well.

"I talked to a friend of mine and he was telling me (acclaimed Native American actor) Adam Beach was wanting to put the show on his all-Indian web channel."

The Native Sports Rush, "Get In the Game!"



opportunity and the chance to tell our side of the story when it comes to sports," said Salsman, who also serves as the show's producer.

Cahwee agreed that this gathering of Native sports journalists in the television medium is a historic

HOTCORNER

Hensci 'stecat's! Yet another ice storm in Oklahoma. What's the deal? Can we not just get some snow or something? Ice is just rude, it doesn't care about anybody! I think I am obligated to tell you that your buddy J-Sals has taken more falls on the ice out there than some of the clumsiest NHL goons on the planet. I busted it at the Henryetta Love's, popped up, saw that nobody had seen me, quickly dusted-off and headed on down the road. And even though nobody was there to point and laugh, don't worry I had a nice chuckle at

my own expense. I wasn't the only one though. Oklahoma City News9 sports director and former OU quarterback Dean Blevins took a nasty spill at his home during the storm and spent a few days in ICU at the OU Medical Center. Get well soon Dean, I may not agree with you all the time, but you're a good dude and a consummate pro.

A few months ago, Gerald and I asked the question of whether or not there was any hope for the OKC Thunder NBA franchise to show a glimmer of hope this season. At the time the Thunder had the league's worst record, were in the midst of a coaching change and the youthful team showed little signs of life at times. Fast forward to now, and things are looking a little brighter in the "Big League City." Interim coach Scott Brooks has got the boys playing hard and competitively, and is showing with each game why the "interim" tag on his title should vanish. They are getting great minutes from some role players, Russell Westbrook's point guard play has went from raw and erratic to dependable and sensational at times and Jeff Green and Kevin Durant are absolute superstars. It will be interesting to see how the squad deals with the recent loss of Desmond Mason to a knee injury for the remainder of the season. Durant himself called Mason the "heart and soul" of the team, so it will be a hit to the chemistry that the Thunder are continuing to build. But

things are definitely looking up, and the fans are noticing. The Thunder are ranked in the top ten in NBA attendance this year, and that's with a team well below the .500 mark. Be patient with this club, there could be some special days ahead.

Earlier this morning I was in the boss' office when my new Sports Illustrated came in. Usually I make a pretty quick glance-through to see what catches my eye. Sometimes its a good issue, sometimes I want to throw it in the trash right then and there. But Selena Roberts' Point After column captivated my attention this time. The article entitled "Notah Begay's Tour of Duty," was a feature on the full-blooded Navajo professional PGA golfer's efforts to raise public awareness to the plight of Native Americans living on reservations in the country. Begay has several charities and establishments geared to raise funds and combat the plagues that are killing Indian Country day-by-day through his Notah Begay, III Foundation. The article points out some startling statistics. Among the worst: a suicide rate 3.3 times higher than the national average and a high school dropout rate twice the national average on reservations. As I kept reading though I thought to myself, how come all I ever read about Natives are articles like this? How come there is never a positive statistic on Indian youth and some of our brightest youngsters? The best answer I could come up with is selective journalism. People write what the nation-wide perspective is, and they don't care to delve any further into that. I bet you for every sad and somber story out there are two of hope and encouragement. I'm blessed with my job to be able to meet and tell the stories of inspired kids on a daily basis. Not everyone chooses to make the wrong choices. Some of our Native youth actually step out of their surroundings and decide to be their own person. Let's start talking about them for a change.



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JUMPS

Mascot

Continued from B1

Although the implications may be felt throughout the country, the bill is aiming its efforts at all public schools in the state of Oklahoma, including institutions of elementary, secondary and higher education. An except of SB 176, now officially known as the ‘Oklahoma Anti-Discriminatory Mascots Act’ reads as follows:

“The use of racially derogatory or discriminatory school or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames in Oklahoma public schools is antithetical to the Oklahoma school mission of providing an equal education to all; Racially-identified athletic team names, mascots, and nicknames that have been and remain in use by athletic teams, and school teams, in other parts of the nation are identified as dis-

crimatory in singling out the Native American/American Indian community for the derision to which mascots or nicknames are often subjected;

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma, an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 400,000 Indian people throughout the United States, declared in The Five Civilized Tribes Intertribal Council Mascot Resolution (2001-08), “WHEREAS, the Five Civilized Tribes believe the use of derogatory American Indian images such as mascots by public schools perpetuate a stereotypical image of American Indians that is likely to have a negative impact on the self-esteem of American Indian children; and joins the United States Commission on Civil Rights call to eliminate the stereotypical use of

American Indian names and images as mascots in sports and other events and to provide meaningful education about real American Indian people, current American Indian issues, and the rich variety of American Indian cultures in the U.S.”;

Many individuals and organizations interested and experienced in human relations, such as the United States Commission on Civil Rights, the American Psychological Association, the National Governing Board of the United Methodist Church, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Education Association, and others, have concluded that the use of Native American images and names in school sports is a barrier to equality and understanding, and that all residents of the United States would benefit from the discontinuance of their use,” the bill states.

Sweet

Continued from B1

This fund raiser is not to pay for the trip. The proceeds go to the SWAT team for additional spending money

for “SWEET TREATDAY” and will be distributed equally. Next meeting, our youth will appoint a secretary/treasurer who will update the team on the fund raisers for “SWEET TREAT DAY.”

This is a pre-pay fund raiser

and orders are due on Feb. 8, 6 p.m., at our next SWAT meeting. You may also pick your orders up early if you call in advance with the quantity and money.

Pictured at left is one of the seven different Native-themed Valentine’s Day cards available for purchase.

For questions, additional information or order forms, please don’t hesitate to call the Tobacco Prevention office at (918) 623-1189. MVTO!



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Communications

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